RP population hits 80M; 32M are poor

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

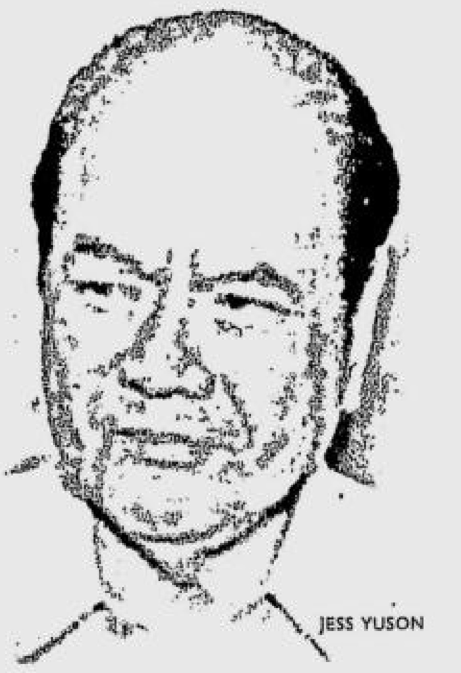
Friday, July 5, 2002 ★ 74 pages / 7 sections / vol.17 / no. 207 P15

MAKE LOVE NOT WAR

World peace just $1B away —Maharishi

NEW YORK—Beatles guru Maharishi Mahesh Yogi said Wednesday in a July 4 message to Americans nervous about new Sept. 11-style attacks that he

WORLD/A6



JESS YUSON

BLAS OPLE: Will he get a blast from his opposition colleagues?

Ople accepts DFA portfolio 'in principle'

Palace spokesperson says he doesn't know what is happening

SEN. Blas Ople has accepted in principle the foreign affairs portfolio, according to a highly placed source in the opposition.

The disclosure, made yesterday to the INQUIRER, appeared to jibe with that of a source in Malacañang that diplomatic representatives of the United States and Japan had started making inquiries on the opposition senator's supposed impending appointment as foreign secretary in place of Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

But when reached by mobile phone, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said he had "no information" on the matter. "I am not connected with that thing (Malacañang's offer to Ople). I really don't know what is happening."

Another Palace official said: "There's been no formal offer, so how can (Ople) accept?"

Ople is currently in the United States. Two of President Macapagal-Arroyo's trusted lieutenants—her longtime personal publicist Dante Ang and Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama—flew there purportedly to persuade the senator to accept the premier Cabinet post.

The senator is scheduled to have lunch with Villarama today in Los Angeles. Ang has since returned to the country.

Ople, who had earlier said he might accept the offer if it would not be tied to efforts to break the impasse in the Senate, is expected to be back in Manila this weekend.

The source in Malacañang said emissaries from the United States and Japanese Embassies in Manila were "drawing a picture" of Ople.

"Although Ka Blas has long

OPLE/A18

GMA outlines foreign policy initiatives

WHEN Sen. Blas Ople assumes the top post at the Department of Foreign Affairs, he would have to heed the foreign policy initiatives that President Macapagal-Arroyo already carved out for him yesterday in her speech at the change of command of the Philippine National Police.

"I shall make sure we strengthen the international linkages that will enable us to fight terrorism and uphold the law everywhere," the President said.

Under a new DFA leadership, the President outlined the "eight realities" she considered to shape the country's foreign policy. These are:

- The paramount influence of China, Japan and the United States in security and the economic evolution of East Asia.
- The growing context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in global affairs.
- The role of the international Islamic community.
- The looming importance of international organizations.
- The protection of the country's environment, natural resources and maritime territory.
- The drive for direct foreign investments to make Europe loom as a major source along with the United States, Japan, China and Asean.
- The importance of international tourism, and
- The crucial role of overseas Filipinos in the country's socio-economic stability.

WHAT'S so funny? President Macapagal knows for sure. So do outgoing PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza and his successor, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, during turnover rites of the PNP command at Camp Crame. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA abolishes anti-kidnapping force

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced the abolition of the National Anti-Crime Commission and its striking arm, the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), which the new chief of the Philippine National Police used to head.

"I am giving Jun (PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.) total accountability and responsibility for kidnapping," the President said in her speech at Camp Crame during the turnover of the PNP command to Ebdane by his predecessor, incoming Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

The turnover ceremony, marked by dark clouds and intermittent rains that drenched those who participated in the parade, was attended by dignitaries, Cabinet members and police officials, including some of the seven ranking officers relieved for their supposed failure to stamp out "jueteng" in their areas.

The creation of task forces like Naktaf and the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force during the

GMA/A6

POPCOM REPORT

RP population hits 80M; 32M are poor

THERE are now 80 million Filipinos, and 32 million of them are considered poor.

According to the Commission on Population (Popcom), the country's population has reached "an estimated 80 million (and) the number of poor Filipinos has also expanded to nearly half of it—40 percent are now (living) below (the) poverty line."

A government census completed in May 2000 showed that 76.49 million people lived in the country and that the population was increasing by around 1.7 million annually.

"With the increase in newborns and new families comes an increase in people's basic needs to continue human life," warned a Popcom news release yesterday.

It quoted the National Statistical Coordination Board as saying last year that four in 10

RP/A19

Only 1 of 3 Pinoys satisfied with RP democracy–SWS

By Blanche S. Rivera

ONLY one out of three Filipinos is satisfied with the way democracy is working in the country, according to a recent survey by the Social Weather Stations.

SWS said yesterday that the 35-percent satisfaction rating last month was the lowest since SWS started monitoring in 1992 people's satisfaction with the workings of democracy.

The survey, conducted from May 17 to June 3, found that the satisfaction rating in May-June was nine percentage points lower than the level recorded in March.

Data from SWS showed that Filipinos were happier with the democratic system during the time of former Presidents Joseph Estrada and Fidel Ramos. The satisfaction rating reached 70 percent in September 1992 and July 1998.

In a statement, SWS noted that Filipinos were content with democracy from 1992 to mid-1999. But they became dissatisfied starting October 1999.

The Philippines has been praised and criticized for the strength of mass movements and the uprisings that toppled two presidents in a span of 15 years.

Former dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted by the first Edsa popular revolt in 1986. Estrada was forced to relinquish

ONLY/A19

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

STARS AND STRIPES FETED: In solidarity with the Americans in their Fourth of July celebration of Independence Day, the first after 9/11, Filipinos display their sentiments at the Quirino Grandstand.

GMA foes in Left, Right feast on political mistakes

By Gerald Lacuarta, Cynthia D. Balana and Rocky Nazareno

THE OPPOSITION and militant groups yesterday pounced on President Macapagal-Arroyo after she admitted before a business forum that she had "committed political mistakes left and right."

Deposed President Joseph Estrada said it was wrong for Ms Macapagal to say that her political mistakes did not affect the economy.

"I am not an economist but even students of economics know that you cannot separate political stability and economic growth," Estrada said in a statement released by his Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

"Common sense tells us that political stability is the prerequisite for economic growth. Unfortunately, common sense is not so common with the Macapagal administration," said Estrada who is detained on plunder charges.

GMA FOES/A18

5 IPP contracts defective–Macapagal

By Carlito Pablo and Clarissa Batino

OF THE 35 expensive independent power producer (IPP) contracts—the same ones which have been blamed for the country's high electricity rates, the third costliest in all of Asia—only six are without "legal or financial issues," President Macapagal-Arroyo disclosed yesterday. She made the announcement after the inter-agency committee studying the contracts concluded its review.

Five of the contracts are defective and may require "possible legal action," she said. ***(See list on Page A6).***

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, who chaired the review committee, said the government would renegotiate 27 of the contracts. "We will renegotiate these 27 contracts and in some cases, we may have to seek other legal remedies like arbitration," Camacho said.

Most of the IPP contracts were signed during the Ramos administration, during or in the aftermath of the debilitating power shortage that struck the country in the early 1990s. The contracts included the purchased power adjustment (PPA) feature, which is being passed on to consumers in the form of high power rates.

Quarters calling for the abolition of the PPA have charged that the IPP contracts are onerous and highly disadvantageous to both government and consuming public.

The six IPP contracts which passed review "without issues" are the Limay Bataan Combined Cycle Gas Turbine A, Navotas Gas Turbine Plant Unit 4, Limay

5 IPP/A6

Second FRONT PAGE

ANG AGA NAMAN!

BARANGAY, YOUTH POLLS

2 murders open campaign period

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The campaign period for the simultaneously set barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15 begins today but already two election-related deaths have been recorded.

Tension has gripped the island-village of Jacopon in Daram, Samar, after its reelectionist barangay chair, Eutemio Patente, 46, was gunned down Wednesday morning in Catbalogan, Samar's capital, allegedly by supporters of his opponent Florencio Apacible.

Some 30 minutes later, back in Jacopon, Patente's brother, Dianito, apparently in retaliation, shot dead Erenio Medalla, a known Apacible supporter.

The killing of Patente and Medalla were the first recorded in Eastern Visayas that were related to the coming elections, said Senior Supt. Conrado Calvario, Philippine National Police director for Samar.

The police report showed Eutemio and his wife Irene were on a tricycle on Del Rosario Street in Catbalogan when two armed men on a motorcycle forcibly stopped the vehicle. One of the men fired at Patente, hitting him in the left chest.

The suspects fled and are at large.

Patente was rushed to the Samar Provincial Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

Police recovered .45-cal. shells at the scene.

Irene Patente told authorities her husband's assailants were Norberto Alinsuot and a certain Raya. She said Alinsuot was the triggerman.

Alinsuot was defeated by Patente in the 1997 barangay elections, the INQUIRER learned. He is also reportedly a cousin of Apacible's.

Dianito Patente is also at large and being hunted by police, Calvario said.

Interference

In Manila, Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo yesterday called the attention of the Commission on Elections to the interference of the police and military in the barangay elections.

Ocampo said the military, instead of the Comelec, had identified so-called Left-influenced or infiltrated barangays as "critical areas" and come up with a program to neutralize them.

By conducting operations in these communities, the military is preempting the Comelec which oversees the conduct of the elections, and is even preventing the electorate from exercising their right to vote, Ocampo said.

A "List of Affected Barangays" reportedly prepared by the military listed 406 barangays in Central Luzon, Cordillera and the Ilocos region as having been influenced by the leftist movement.

In Metro Manila, at least 52 barangays, including Payatas in Quezon City and Baseco in Tondo, Manila, have reportedly been identified as critical areas by the Metro Manila Peace and Development Council.

"Why single out the Left-influenced areas and disregard those communities where private armies proliferate?" Ocampo asked.

He also charged the government with "laying the ground to exclude from the July 15 as well as the 2004 elections the legal Left and the progressives critical of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's presidency."

"The government is obviously trying to prevent Bayan Muna and other progressive groups from gaining strength through the elections," Ocampo said.

Sin's call

Also in Manila, Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin yesterday urged Catholics to pray for justice, truth and peace to reign in the coming barangay and youth polls.

Sin said parishioners should join the overnight vigil to be led by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting on July 6 from 6 p.m. at the San Andres Sports Complex in Manila.

"An awareness of our continuing electoral woes does not generate pessimism but rather encourages the struggle for the victory of good in every realm," said PPCRV chair Antonio Ventosa.

In Iloilo City, in its first en banc session outside Manila since Martial Law, the Comelec also relaxed restrictions concerning the non-partisan character of the barangay and SK polls.

In a marathon session in the city on Tuesday, the Comelec passed a resolution allowing politicians to campaign for or against candidates in the July 15 elections. ***With Agnes E. Donato and Blanche S. Rivera in Manila and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

TOR covering new RP-US exercises in works—Cimatu

By Martin P. Marfil

A NEW set of terms of reference (TOR) to cover joint military exercises with the United States planned for October could be out in a "week or two," Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said yesterday.

Cimatu said Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, chief of US Joint Task Force 510 and co-director of the Balikatan 02-1 exercise, visited Camp Aguinaldo yesterday to discuss the agreement.

In a related development, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, the outgoing foreign secretary, said he would no longer be involved in drawing up the final draft of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) with the US which he said was already in the pipeline.

Guingona said it was up to Malacañang to take up the suggestions he had submitted.

Guingona's observations on the MLSA, an agreement that would allow US forces to maintain facilities and supplies here for aircraft refueling, are said to include his opposition to some of its provisions, which he considered unconstitutional.

Cimatu said the new TOR was a "new mechanism for a new setup," noting that since the Balikatan 02-1 joint exercises are to officially end on July 31 a new TOR would be needed for the next training exercise.

"We will be coming up with a package that will execute this (new) undertaking," he said.

Cimatu said the form and substance of the new TOR are still being finalized, adding that it would be a policy matter for discussion between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of National Defense.

Talk about a new TOR came about following President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent announcement that the Philippines and the US had entered into a "sustained" military cooperation agreement.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said that a new training package would be part of the "sustained" cooperation.

Legislators immediately demanded to know if there would be a new TOR to cover such an agreement. ***With a report from Norman Bordadora***

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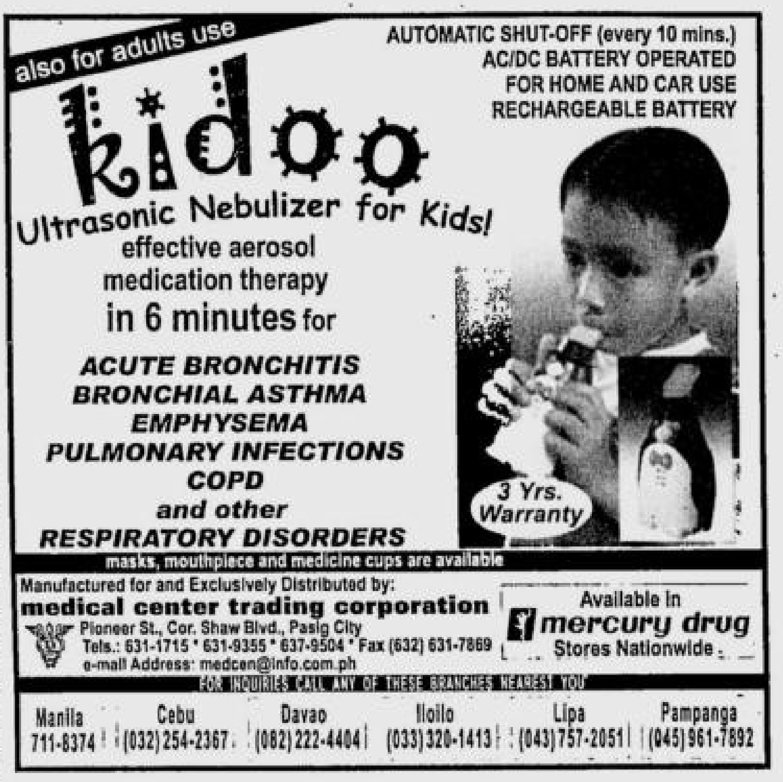
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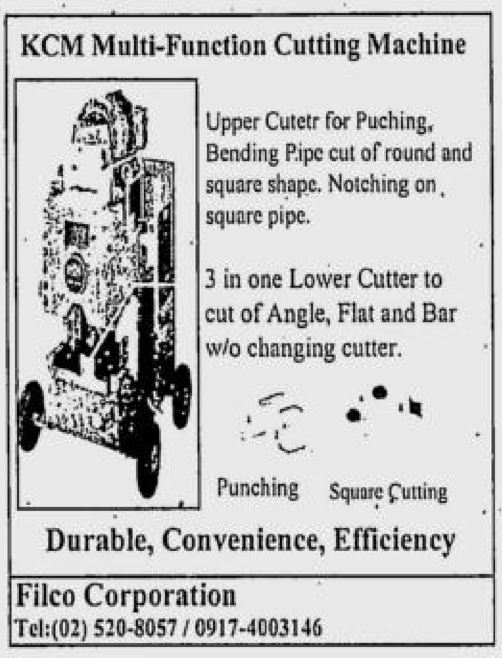
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23 Pinoy seamen ransomed, freed

By Blanche S. Rivera and Norman Bordadora

THE 23 Filipino seamen on a cargo vessel seized by pirates off the coast of Somalia last month have been released unharmed after the vessel's insurer paid ransom, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

Gunmen boarded the Panagia Tinou off the coast of Somalia on June 15, seizing the vessel and its 23-member Filipino crew.

The crew and the vessel were released unharmed late Wednesday and were back in international waters, Sto. Tomas said.

Sto. Tomas said her office received a report that ransom was paid by the vessel's insurer, the Protection and Indemnity Club, but she did not know how much was paid.

The gunmen, believed to be Somali and part of a tribal coast guard, had demanded $500,000.

A joint diplomatic representation from the Philippines, Cyprus and Greece to Somalia's representative in the United Nations was what started off negotiations for the release of the seamen, said Assistant Foreign Secretary Victoriano Lecaros, the DFA spokesperson.

"The demarche (diplomatic representation) asked Somalia to address the problem. We told them we could help if you want or we could invite other countries to help," Lecaros said.

Sto. Tomas said the presence of so many warlords in Somalia greatly impeded any kind of official negotiation, but that the Filipino seamen maintained the highest level of professionalism, decorum and composure.

The 23 seamen had been hired through the Skippers United Pacific Inc., a Philippine-based manning agency.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, quoting a report from an officer of Skippers United Pacific, said the seamen on board the Cypriot-registered bulk carrier were now "maneuvering and heading for their original destination escorted by two helicopters and German naval ships."

Owwa administrator Wilhelm Soriano said the German warships might have been part of a group of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) ships in the area.

The vessel was carrying a cargo of potash from the Ukraine to India, Soriano said.

The Owwa has already informed their families of their situation and would facilitate their return to the country as soon as they have completed their duties.

The foreign affairs department, however, continues to be silent on the issue of ransom payment.

A ranking DFA official said that confirming that ransom was paid was like declaring "open season" on Filipino crew members in foreign seas.

Lecaros said the department had been burning the lines to the UN and Philippine diplomatic posts in Nairobi, Kenya and Tel Aviv, Israel, which are near Greece and Cyprus, respectively.

Cyprus was the lead country in the diplomatic representations in the UN but as the Philippines stood to lose 23 lives in the incident, no measures were undertaken without the express consent of the Philippine delegation.

The vessel was registered in Cyprus and was thus subject to the laws of that country. It was, however, owned by a Greek shipping company.

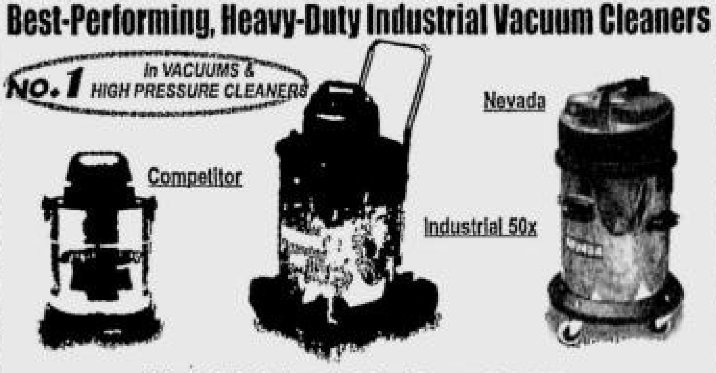
Reports reaching the DFA said the Panagia Tinou suffered engine trouble off northern Somalia on June 14, prompting the Filipino crewmembers to drop anchor.

The next day, as the crew was about to do some repairs, armed men, suspected to be Somalis, boarded the ship and announced a hijack.

"They threatened to take the ship ashore and the Filipinos to an unknown location," Lecaros said.

He said this was the reason why the incident was kept from the media and the negotiations kept under wraps.

"Another development came nine days after the takeover of the armed group. Another group tried to take over the ship from them," Lecaros said.



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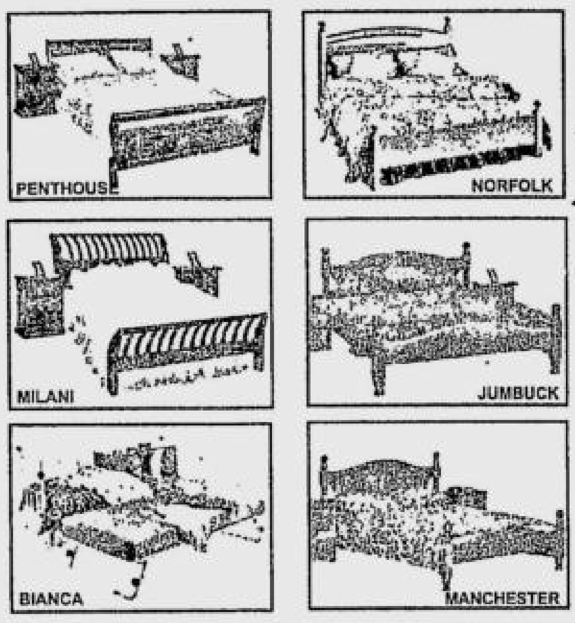

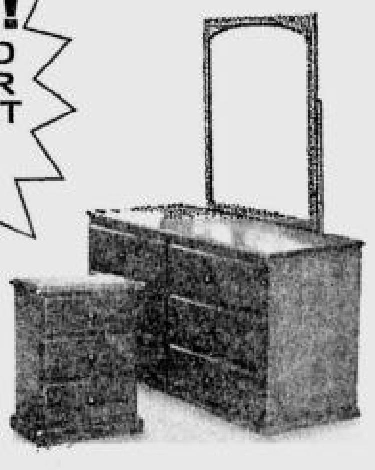

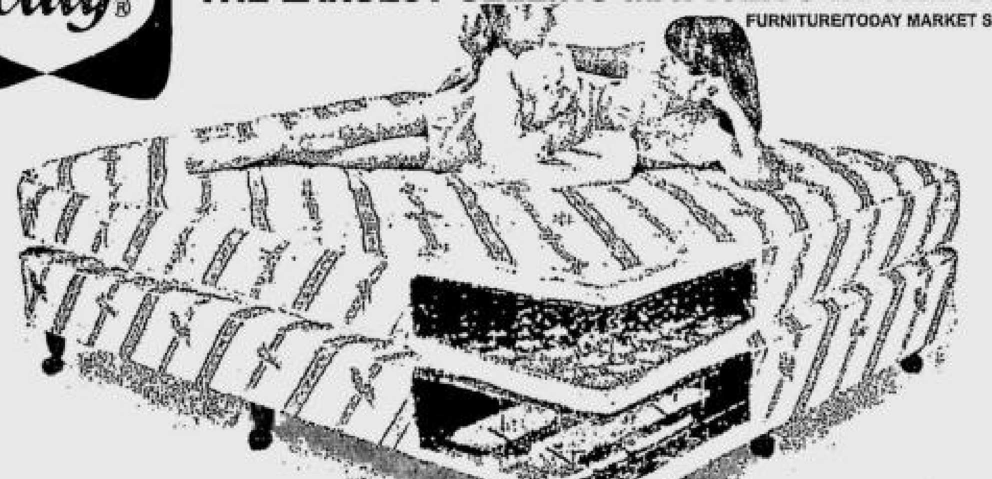

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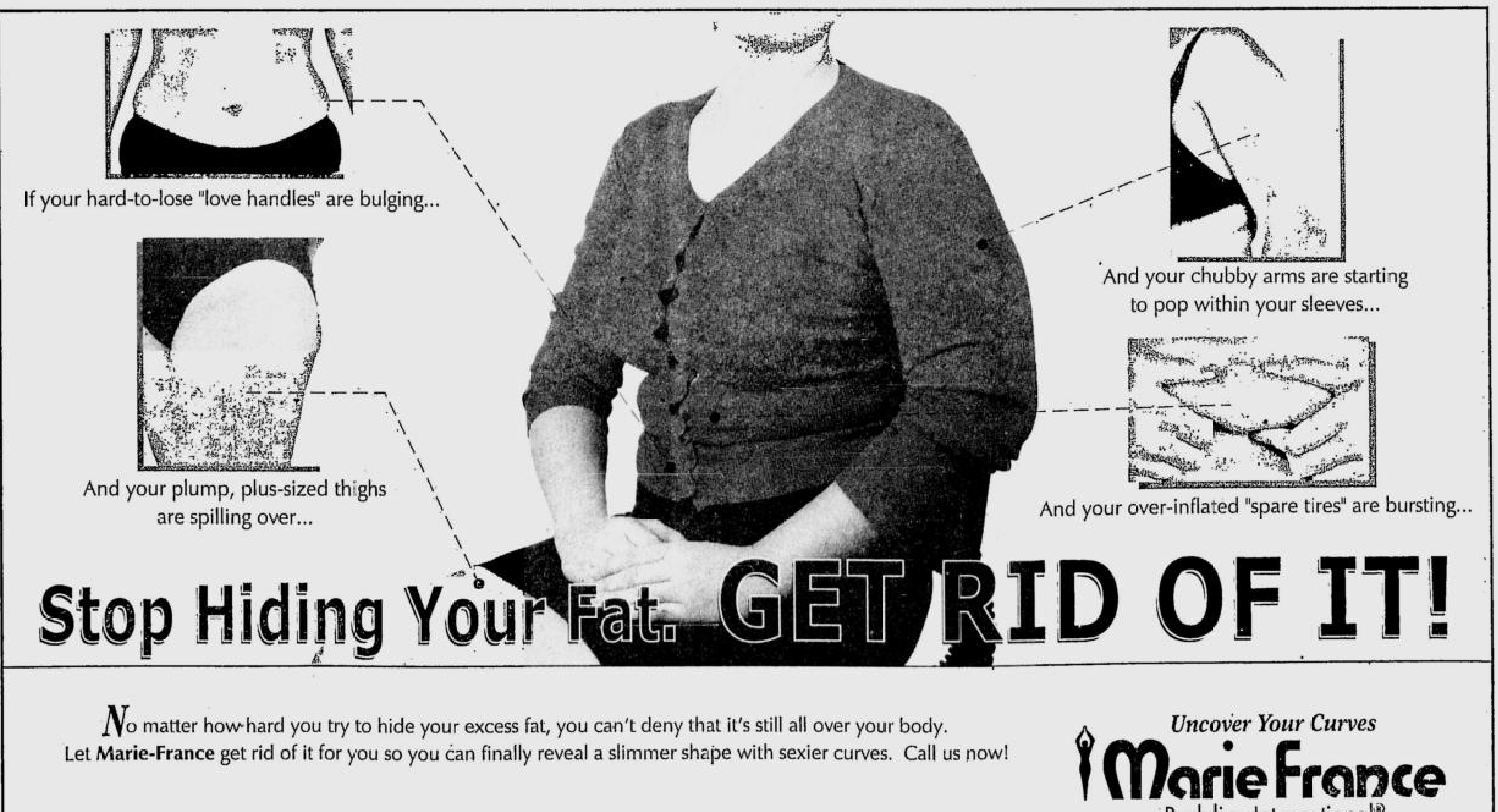

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'Just call me Larry' Mendoza takes over at DOTC

By Ronnel W. Domingo

"LARRY *lang po ang itawag ninyo sa akin at magkakasundo tayong lahat* (Just call me Larry and we will all get along)."

Thus did newly installed Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza introduce himself to officers and staff of the department, during turnover rites at the DOTC offices on Ortigas Ave. in Pasig City.

Mendoza told the gathering of at least 300 that President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered him to focus on the traffic problem in Metro Manila and on smuggling.

"These are my marching orders and I will coordinate with the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Bureau of Customs," Mendoza said.

The just-retired chief of the Philippine National Police said he would address the traffic problem through a "total approach strategy"—enlisting all agencies concerned like the Traffic Management Group, local governments and transport industry players.

"I believe my years of service with the PNP would be a great help in my new job," Mendoza said. "I am maintaining close coordination with the people I have worked with to help me carry out (the President's orders)."

Mendoza said taking over from resigned Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez was "a major challenge and a change of paradigm."

He said DOTC secretaries have different leadership and management styles, temperaments and experiences.

"But the vision to make the DOTC an institution of transparency and accountability and a showcase of effective implementation remains," Mendoza said.

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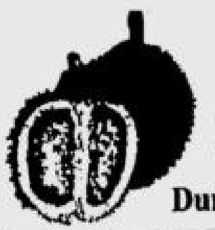
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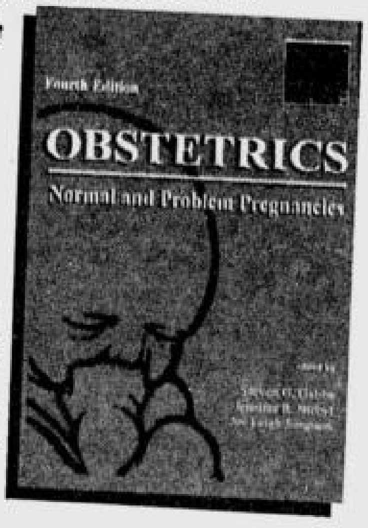

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Ex-PNP chief cleared in flap over golf game

By M. Lim Ubac

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman yesterday announced that contrary to a complaint, the outgoing chief of the Philippine National Police and three others did not play golf with an alleged drug lord in Cebu City last year.

Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito P. Gervacio said at a press conference that the complaint for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service against incoming Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, PNP Directors Thomson Lantion and Rex Piad, and Supt. Carlito Dimaano was dismissed because there was no "sufficient evidence to find them guilty."

Mendoza et al. were cleared on the same day that he turned over the top PNP post to Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane. Gervacio said it was found that Mendoza and his group did not play golf with businessman Wellington Lim, who was once investigated by the House of Representatives' committee on dangerous drugs for alleged involvement in the illegal drugs trade.

He said the evidence presented, "namely, golf chits and score cards, as well as the testimony of the caddies," showed that "Mendoza's group and Lim played in separate golf flights."

Gervacio also said it was not Lim who paid the bills of Mendoza et al. but a certain Joseph Alquizola.

"It was not established that Mr. Lim parted with his money to accommodate General Mendoza and his companions," Gervacio said.

There is thus no basis to order formal administrative proceedings on the matter, he said.

On the other hand, "enough basis" was found to subject PNP Deputy Police Director Oscar Calderon, Navy Commodore George Uy and Dennis Canoy to an administrative adjudication.

"It appeared from the record that their golf chit was paid by Mr. Lim, and that they played together," Gervacio said.

He said the case against the three would be forwarded to the Criminal Investigation and Administrative Adjudication Bureau of the Ombudsman for the Military.

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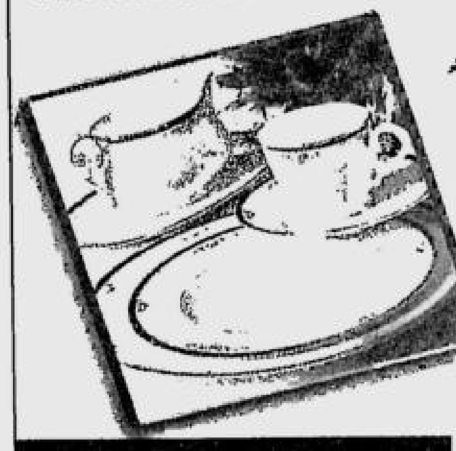
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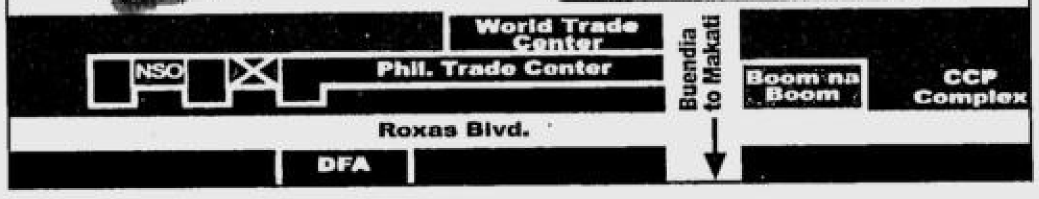

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, July 5, 2002
13th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Am 8:4-6, 9-12
Gospel: Mt 9:9-13

As Jesus moved on, he saw a man named Matthew at his seat in the customhouse, and he said to him, "Follow me." And Matthew got up and followed him. Now it happened, while Jesus was at table in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other sinners joined Jesus and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this they said to his disciples, "Why is it that your master eats with those sinners and tax collectors?"

When Jesus heard this he said, "Healthy people do not need a doctor, but sick people do. Go and find out what this means: *What I want is mercy, not sacrifice.* I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Commentary

"What I want is mercy, not sacrifice. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." These sentences of Jesus are a challenge to today's Christian communities, and to the Church in general. Most of our energy is spent in converting the converted, evangelizing the evangelized. Our priests keep themselves busy "saying Masses" that have become neither sacrifices nor acts of mercy, but sad to say, a routine work and way of earning a living. We should consider to leave the ninety-nine (not necessarily abandon) and search for the one who is still lost. Rediscover our sense of mission, redirect our lives and ministries. On the other hand the gospel assures us that God will get closer to us whenever we humbly accept our sinful condition, not when we pretend to be holy.

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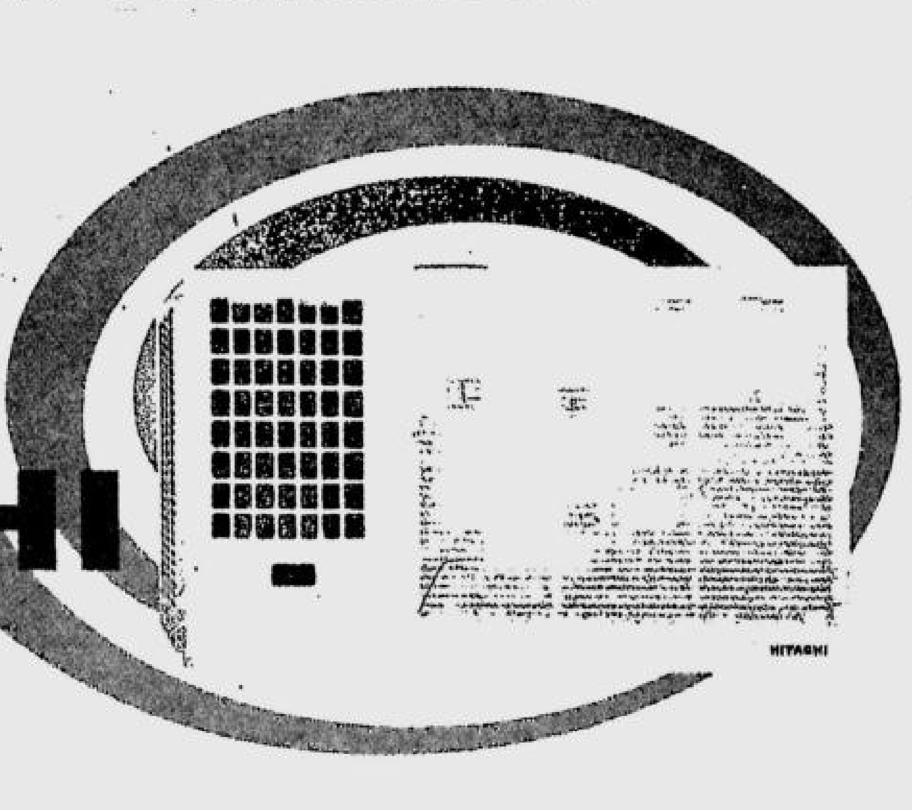

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Copa warns of protests over Guingona fiasco

By Norman Bordadora

SAYCON

THE COUNCIL on Philippine Affairs (Copa) warned yesterday of protests following the bungled resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona as secretary of foreign affairs.

Copa secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon went to the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday to greet Guingona on the latter's 75th birthday. He said he also came to commiserate with the Vice President for the "shabby treatment" he got from Malacañang.

"We are saddened by what happened to Vice President Guingona," Saycon told reporters.

Guingona announced his resignation as foreign affairs secretary on Tuesday, after a resignation letter supposedly written by him was prematurely released by the Palace and caused embarrassment all around.

"It was a big insult. The Vice President was the first person to openly accuse then President Joseph Estrada of having connections to illegal gambling and now he is treated like this," Saycon said.

Saycon said civil society is alarmed by what is going on in the government, particularly the offer made to opposition Sen. Blas Ople to head the Department of Foreign Affairs and the invitation to erstwhile Estrada allies Ronaldo and Ricardo Puno and Jaime Policarpio to join the administration.

"This is a crisis that we have to come out (and protest)," said Saycon. He added that the forces that supported Edsa II see Guingona's resignation as a repudiation of what they stood for in the people power revolution that brought President Macapagal-Arroyo to power.

Saycon said representatives of Copa, the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) and E-Just have met to discuss Guingona's resignation.

He said more meetings will be conducted with other Edsa II forces.

It was learned that some civil society leaders were scheduled to meet at Guingona's residence in New Manila, Quezon City last night.

"We are not withdrawing support from the President. This is just a manifestation of our sentiments," Saycon said.

Julabbi leaves MILF to continue rebellion

ZAMBOANGA—A senior leader of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front said yesterday he was splitting from the Philippines' largest Muslim insurgent group to pursue an armed rebellion against the government.

Ustadz Shariff Julabbi said he was disgruntled with the MILF leadership, which he said eased him out of its central committee after the organization signed a ceasefire agreement with the government last year.

Julabbi was also reprimanded last month by the MILF leadership for telling the press the group was continuing to recruit members and has resumed manufacturing weapons despite the ongoing peace talks.

"We will not negotiate with the government, but we will pursue the aspirations of the Moro people for an independent homeland" on Mindanao, Julabbi told Agence France Presse.

Julabbi said MILF forces in western Mindanao have also pledged to ally themselves with his breakaway group.

He claimed to have thousands of armed fighters at his disposal in the Zamboanga peninsula and the nearby islands of Basilan and Jolo.

It was not clear how Julabbi's split with the MILF would affect the peace talks, but the military had previously said MILF forces under Julabbi's command had helped Abu Sayyaf rebels evade a manhunt.

The Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang, believed to have links to the al-Qaida movement of international terrorist Osama bin Laden, is the object of joint US-Philippine military operations following a kidnapping spree that ended with the deaths last month of American hostage Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap. *AFP*

Revilla flies to US for medical tests

ADMINISTRATION Sen. Ramon Revilla will be leaving for the United States tomorrow to consult a vocal cords surgeon, Sen. Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

Drilon said he received a call early yesterday from Revilla who could not express himself clearly because of an earlier spinal operation that may have damaged his voice box.

His departure could precipitate another crisis in the Senate, as the balance of power between the administration and opposition blocs would fall to 12-11 in favor of the minority.

Last month, during Revilla's absence, administration Sen. John Osmeña jumped to the opposition bloc, which then proceeded to wrest control of the committees and proclaim itself the "new majority."

With Revilla's return in late June, the power balance in the Senate stood even at 12-12. This could quickly fall to 12-11 in favor of the opposition when he leaves tomorrow.

And if Revilla were to fail to return before the July 22 reopening of Congress, the chamber would again be paralyzed.

But the administration bloc can take heart in Malacañang's reported moves to entice opposition Sen. Blas Ople into accepting the foreign affairs portfolio, to replace outgoing Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona.

Yesterday, Drilon appealed to the opposition not to take advantage of Revilla's absence.

"The senator assured me that he will be back by July 22, but I told him to give his health the utmost and primary concern, and the politics in the Senate should not be a consideration to his return to Manila on July 22," he said.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, who leads the opposition ranks in the Senate, said he was "saddened" by Revilla's condition.

"We wish him well and hope that he will return to the Senate soon in good health," Angara said.

"We want to send him off with our deepest prayers for his speedy recovery for this is a matter beyond party affiliation and partisan consideration," he said. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Ongpin art lecture set

THE life's work of the late Alfonso Ongpin, the renowned art collector and Rizalist, will be the subject of a lecture on July 13 at the National Museum.

Lisa Ongpin Periquet, masteral candidate in art history at the University of Virginia and Ongpin's great granddaughter will be delivering the lecture.

Ongpin, a mentor to the young art collectors Luis Ma. Araneta and Eugenio Lopez Sr., collected and preserved the works of 19th-century masters Damian Domingo, Juan Luna, Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo and other artists active during his lifetime, such as Fabian de la Rosa, Jorge Pineda and Fernando Amorsolo.

Sponsored by the National Museum, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines, the lecture will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 13, at the Tambunting-Vilongco Hall of the Museum of the Filipino People, Rizal Park.

For information, call Jing Pascual at 813-0771 or 404-2685.

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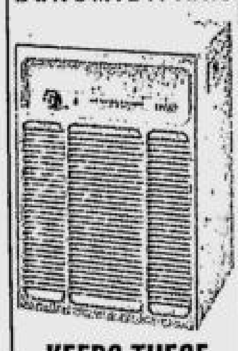

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GMA abolishes anti-kidnapping force

From page A1

Estrada administration has demoralized the PNP rank and file because of the projection of these special groups as "super cops."

According to ordinary police officers and men, the PNP is organized into major services such as the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, which deals with crime syndicates engaged in activities ranging from kidnapping to white-collar crimes.

Ms Macapagal defined Ebdane's immediate priorities—to "eliminate kidnapping in one year" and put a stop to drug trafficking.

Showing resolve to lick the problem starting with her home province, she said she would transfer Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, who had succeeded in stamping out kidnapping syndicates in Pangasinan, to Pampanga.

In the fight against illegal drugs, she said Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte would head a "special task force" to assist Ebdane.

Duterte was recently featured in Time magazine as "The Punisher." The article, written by Phil Zabriskie, cited the mayor's efforts to bring peace and order to his city.

The President also directed Ebdane and Interior Secretary Jose Lina to convene a summit on kidnapping and drugs similar to the summit on illegal gambling convened last year by Lina and Mendoza.

The summit, scheduled on Tuesday, is expected to define, among others, the parameters of the principle of command responsibility.

The President stressed that as in the campaign against illegal gambling, "the more frequent the bungling happens, the higher the command responsibility goes."

"There will be no more excuses," she warned.

No place

In his own speech, Ebdane said that "corrupt policemen have no place in the PNP," and that "the police leadership must take action against these police scalawags."

"There is no room in the PNP for indecisive chiefs and directors who refuse to exercise their disciplinary authority," he said. "Disciplinary measures will be imposed without exception in all levels of leadership."

Ebdane enjoined police commanders to account for all personnel within five days and come up with a "community-oriented program of action."

He said his organizational thrust would be based on "ONE PNP"—O for organizational reform, N for neighborhood partnerships, and E for education of policemen.

The President also raised the "crying need" for the PNP to rid itself of the "division and intrigue" that, she said, were "threatening to rock the organization."

"I call on you senior officers of the PNP: think of the institution, think of the country," she said.

She pointed out that unity was imperative if the PNP was to succeed in stamping out kidnapping for ransom and illegal drugs.

"We are in this together and must be united to face the challenge . . . to get rid of internal politics," she said.

It was the President's most categorical acknowledgement so far of the simmering rivalry in the PNP, which partially manifested itself in public before her decision to name Ebdane as the next PNP chief was made official.

Certain quarters in Camp Crame put out paid advertisements in newspapers questioning Ebdane's qualifications and saying that his rise in the PNP was mainly a result of his supposed political connections. The Ebdane camp struck back with glowing endorsements in the media.

There were also recent published reports that the Ebdane group was blocking the reappointment to "juicy positions" of the seven ranking officers ordered relieved by the National Police Commission for supposedly failing to curb illegal gambling in their respective commands.

The seven, including PNP Central Luzon regional director Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, are known to be close to the President, having played major roles in People Power II.

Image problem

Ms Macapagal said that while the PNP might have chalked up worthy accomplishments, "we still have an image problem."

"Let us get our act together, let us get our job done," she said. "The Filipino people demand 100-percent service from their policemen, and they deserve no less."

In calling for unity in the PNP, the President noted that there were also rivalries in the Armed Forces but that these were overcome in the course of the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

"There were intrigues and rivalries, too, in the battle against the Abu Sayyaf—military versus PNP, Marines versus Army, this commander versus that commander," she said. "In the end, everybody got their act together and we have won against the Abu Sayyaf."

As for Mendoza, the President said his immediate task was to work with Bayani Fernando, newly appointed chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, to "solve the traffic problem in Metro Manila."

She also ordered Mendoza to work with Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo in stopping smuggling syndicates operating at the country's ports.

"Larry (Mendoza) came well prepared for the top PNP post and is well prepared to be the top enforcer of our streets and waterfronts," she said.

As Mendoza's last act as PNP chief, the President said she had ordered him to dismiss the Western Police District cops who had tried to bribe Baguio policemen to secure the release of a drug dealer, as well as their commander.

Duterte

In Davao City, Duterte said he doubted that he could serve as a crime-buster on a national scope.

He said that while he could "deal with the civilian population," matters of crime surveillance and detection were for the PNP.

"Ebdane is 100-percent better than me," he told reporters.

Duterte said he had yet to meet with the President and clarify his role as head of a "special task force."

"There is no way that I can compete with General Ebdane," the mayor said.

The Time article said Duterte's "brand of order comes at a price," an apparent reference to his alleged ties with the so-called Davao Death Squad and the mysterious killing of drug dealers and cell phone thieves, including members of youth gangs.

Time quoted Alfredo Lim—a former interior secretary and mayor of Manila who once earned the title "Dirty Harry"—as saying that if the Philippines had "20 more mayors like Duterte, the peace and order situation ... would improve."

It also quoted Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, as saying that justice in Davao was "not about following the law; it's about who's willing to go further."

On reports that he had liquidated the suspects in the 1992 bombing of the San Pedro Cathedral, Duterte told Time: "I don't believe in state-sponsored killing. I can't say any more, but I taught them a lesson."

Duterte also said criminals and rebels "do not have a monopoly on evil." He added: "The only reason there is peace and order in Davao is ... me."

Before the President left the city for Cotabato on Monday, she reportedly told Duterte that she was going to ask him to do something for the country.

"So I heard that she has appointed me chair of a task force," Duterte said yesterday. "I don't know, I have to talk to the President first. I don't know yet the dimension of the job." ***With a report from Martin P. Marfil in Manila; Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

STAR among the stars: Former President Fidel Ramos among the generals including relieved NCRPO chief Edgardo Aglipay who salutes the old soldier.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Drilon backs return of PNP control to local officials

By Rocky Nazareno

THE RELIEF of the seven ranking officers of the Philippine National Police is a clear indication of the need to return the supervision of the PNP to the local government, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

In an ambush interview at the Senate yesterday, Drilon said that should plans to amend the 1987 Constitution push through, "one of the provisions we should look at is the return of the control and supervision of the police to local government officials."

Drilon said he in fact filed a bill in the 11th Congress seeking to give local executives wider supervision of the PNP.

"Now, that we're in the 12th Congress, I will re-file that bill," he said. "We will put back into the legislative agenda the bill that would widen the authority of the (local government units) over the police. We believe that it will make the LGUs more responsive to these problems."

Drilon, however, said any legislative effort to grant such powers to the LGUs should not be limited to curbing illegal gambling, like "jueteng."

"It's more than jueteng," he said. "Illegal drugs and kidnappings should be given equal attention by the interior secretary."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the relief of the seven ranking officers had raised "concern in the business sector as to whether the PNP is serious in its effort to curb lawlessness."

He said the business sector had perceived "the possibility of a divided PNP" with the relief of the seven.

"It is now a challenge to the incoming PNP chief (Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.) to mend fences at the PNP so that it would be able to address criminality and lawlessness effectively," Pangilinan said.

World peace just $1B away—Maharishi

From page A1

could kill world terrorism with love—but he would need $1 billion to do it.

"July 4 could be a great day for freedom," Maharishi, who brought Transcendental Meditation to the West more than 40 years ago and is a spiritual inspiration to some 6 million people worldwide, said in a conference call from the Netherlands.

Maharishi said that with $1 billion he could train 40,000 expert meditators, or "Vedic Pandits," who would generate enough good vibes to save the world.

His press office said $85 million toward that goal had already been raised.

The guru, who has largely shunned the public eye for the last 20 years, is now determined to drum up support for his concept of "Natural Law—the Constitution of the Universe."

"I am setting up groups of knowers of this total knowledge of natural law, here, there and everywhere, particularly large groups in India, which is the seed for total knowledge of natural law," Maharishi said.

"I have confidence that India will be the lighthouse for total knowledge. From there this total knowledge will radiate in the whole family of nations .... That would generate a powerful influence of peace that would spread throughout the whole world and neutralize the stress, the hatred and tensions that fuel terrorism and war today."

Maharishi also criticized the US response to terror attacks.

"Bush's war on terrorism pushes the world toward destruction," he said. "This promotes the birth of an enemy." ***Reuters***

MAHARISHI YOGI: A force of 40,000 "Vedic Pandits" will generate enough good vibes to save the world.

5 IPP contracts defective—Macapagal

From page A1

CAMACHO

PASS **IPP contracts with no legal/financial issues**	**FAIL** **IPP contracts with legal/financial issues**
Limay, Bataan Combined Cycle A	Binga Hydroelectric
Navotas Gas Turbine 4	Cavite Epza Diesel
Limay Bataan Combined Cycle B	Sual Coal-Fired Thermal
Ambuklao Hydroelectric	Casecnan Multipurpose
Toledo Thermal	San Roque Multipurpose
Paragua Thermal	

Bataan Combined Cycle Gas Turbine B, Ambuklao Hydroelectric Plant, Toledo Thermal Plant and the Paragua Thermal Plant.

The five defective contracts involve the Binga Hydroelectric Plant, Cavite Epza Diesel Plant, Sual Coal-Fired Thermal Plant, Casecnan Multipurpose Project and the San Roque Multipurpose Project.

These "were found to have both legal and financial issues that need to be referred for appropriate study, renegotiation and possible legal action," the President said.

Lower rates

The finance secretary said a renegotiation of the contracts found disadvantageous to the government should lead to "significant savings" that should help bring down the cost of electricity in the country. Power rates in the Philippines are the third most expensive in Asia, after highly industrialized Japan and Hong Kong.

Camacho refused to elaborate on the legal and financial issues hounding the five contracts but he said these may have something to do with their capacity and how the supposed take-or-pay arrangement could be reduced.

Most of the IPP contracts signed during the time of Ramos involved a so-called take-or-pay deal. This means that whether or not the power was used, the National Power Corp. would still have to pay the contractors. This arrangement was being largely blamed for the exorbitant power rates, particularly in Luzon.

"We have to work for better terms because some of these IPPs have become very profitable and have realized windfall profits. It's not necessarily their fault. It's just the nature of their contracts," said Camacho.

American firm Mirant Phils., for instance, recorded P8 billion in net profits last year. Mirant operates several power plants with a total capacity of 2,300 MW, including Sual and the 700-MW Pagbilao coal plant in Quezon Province, one of the biggest in Luzon.

Sual was the power plant that was attacked by jellyfish in December 1999 that led to hours of outage in the whole region.

Other contracts

In a statement, President Macapagal said that 11 contracts, "while passing the review, have some remedial financial issues that need to be addressed."

Such a measure is necessary "to assure that the government and the public are not being financially prejudiced."

These 11 contracts are the Navotas Gas Turbine Plant Units 1-3, Mindanao Power Barges, Ormat Binary Cycle Geothermal Plant, Bunker C-Fired Diesel Generating Plant Iligan I, Bunker C-Fired Diesel Generating Plant Iligan II, Subic Bunker-Fired Diesel Plant, Bataan EPZA Power Plant, San Pascual Cogeneration Facility, Iligan Natural Gas, and the Mindanao II Geothermal Plant.

The President likewise said that another 11 contracts "have some financial issues that may require renegotiation of the financial terms."

These are the Pagbilao Coal-Fired Plant, Pinamucan Diesel Power Plant, Leyte Cebu Geothermal Plant, Naga Powerplant Complex, Leyte Luzon Geothermal Plant, Mindanao I Geothermal Plant, Malaya Thermal, Zamboanga Bunker C-Fired Diesel Plant, Gen San Bunker-C Fired Diesel Plant, Bakun Hydroelectric Plant, and the Mindanao Coal-Fired Thermal Plant.

The President said the 22 contracts required "study or renegotiation of certain financial terms."

She also said that two contracts "while having remedial policy issues, were found to be financially sound."

These are the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan Project and the Navotas Gas Turbine Plant Units 1-3.

Ms Macapagal said that she had ordered the National Economic Development Authority, in coordination with the Department of Justice, to "review these contracts."

No sacred cows

Camacho stressed that in reviewing the 35 contracts, the committee he led gave no consideration to the so-called sacred cows.

Mirant Phils. chair Marce Fuller was appointed a member of the President's international board of advisers, yet two of the company's plants in the country were hit in the review.

Greenpeace Southeast Asia, a nongovernment group for environmental protection, said that while it was generally satisfied with the results of the review, it was deeply disappointed that environmental concerns were not made as one of the basis in reviewing the contracts.

"This is good but they made no reference to environmental protection. So while urban centers get their electricity, we let host communities get poisoned by their deadly emissions. Sual and Pagbilao are nets of environmental problems," said Red Constantino, the group's spokesperson.

The government, as provided by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, was mandated to review the 35 remaining contracts, out of more than 40 IPP contracts worth about some $10 billion.

These contracts are called power purchase agreements, the main component of the purchased power adjustments (PPA) that the Napocor passes on to electricity distributors like the Manila Electric Co. In turn, utilities like Meralco pass on the cost of the PPA to the end-users.

Currently, there is an oversupply of electricity reaching about 5,000 MW in Luzon.

Three months

The President said she had given the Department of Energy, the Department of Justice, and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management company three months to take action and "come up with results" on their specific assignments.

"It is the overall objective of our administration to reduce the cost of electricity for the consumer, while respecting valid commercial contracts and the rule of law," the President said.

"I am confident that the steps to be taken by the relevant government agencies will be consistent with the mandate of the EPIRA and our goal of rationalizing the power industry and bringing about lower electricity rates," she added.

In a speech before the Philippine Marketing Association, the President elaborated on her statement. She said that the six contracts that passed review without legal or financial issues could "go on and operate and their rates are more or less fair."

Regarding the first 11 contracts with remedial financial issues, the President said that "we might be able to find room for some more centavo decreases" in their power costs.

With respect to the second batch of 11 contracts, she said that renegotiation "might bring about some bigger decreases."

On the two contracts with some remedial policy issues, "you cannot squeeze any blood any more from these," the President said.

Of the five contracts that are both legally and financially problematic, Ms Macapagal said that two are no longer operating "so even if we renegotiate or file legal action, they won't result in lower rates."

As for the other three, the President said that legal action may take longer than renegotiation although "the threat of legal action also makes negotiation faster."

Contrary view

A militant group blasted the inter-agency committee's recommendations.

"The report's recommendation to renegotiate onerous contracts are unsurprisingly lame," said Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Reyes said the committee's probe fell much short of doing away with the consumers' burden of paying for the purchased power adjustment charges, which meant the consumers shoulder the costs of doing these projects.

"The move for renegotiation glosses over the fact that consumers have already paid billions of pesos over the years," Reyes said.

"Under her 10-point plan to lower electricity rates, (Ms Macapagal) is determined to renegotiate contracts and refinance our PPA obligations," Reyes said. "We still have to pay for the PPA through the new universal charge."

He said the President should have the political will to rescind the contracts, which the government through the National Power Corp. entered into at the height of the electricity crisis in the early 1990s. ***With a report from Ronnel W. Domingo***

New law promotes merit system in AFP

SPECIAL REPORT

By Jerry Esplanada

(Last of two parts)

LAST month, the new AFP benefits and welfare act became law—raising the basic pay of military officers and personnel by as much as 40 percent. But a provision in the new law may make term extensions, such as that granted to AFP chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu, a thing of the past.

Section 3 of the new law tasks the Department of National Defense to establish a merit system which shall "govern the selection, hiring, transfer, promotion or dismissal of all personnel and officers in the AFP."

"Aside from the pay increase for the Filipino soldier, this is another welcome development," Sen. Gregorio Honasan told the INQUIRER.

Selective

A merit system, the former Army colonel stressed, "should be the dominant feature of the military bureaucracy. Sad to say, patronage continues to be part of the system. It should not be allowed to flourish under the new law."

But can RA 9166 professionalize the current system of promotions? Both Honasan and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, the law's principal author, said they were "optimistic."

There is an AFP merit system in place, but opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara said "it is not being applied fairly. Instead, it is selective and marked by the usual favoritism, among other factors."

Retired Brig. Gen. Eduardo Cabanlig, former Marines commander, cited reports that "the so-called *bata-bata* system is still being practiced in the current system, which as we all know isn't perfect."

Lt. Gen. Gregorio Camiling, AFP vice chief of staff, acknowledged there were "some weaknesses and loopholes in the systems in place regarding personnel management and human resource development. There may be a need to review and update these."

Camiling noted that "some factors, both internal and external, affect the implementation of the present personnel management system. There are cases of double-standard accommodation, *palakasan*, outside pressure and exemptions to some requirements. All these destroy professionalism and encourage politicking and patronage which are bad for the AFP."

"If strictly implemented, the system will encourage professionalism and ensure high performance standards. It will also ensure that the right people will be placed in proper positions and only those deserving will go higher in the leadership hierarchy," Camiling added.

An improvement

Except for Cimatu's term extension, "everything seems to be quite all right in the AFP merit system," according to officers of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (formerly the Reform the Armed Forces Movement).

"Actually there has been an improvement. A lot of things have been put in place since the 1989 (failed coup)," said RAM spokesman Col. Reynaldo Samaco.

Central theme

Another RAM leader, Navy Capt. Proceso Maligalig, now president of the government-sequestered Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co., recalled that "professionalizing the promotion system was one of the reforms called for by RAM during the 1980s. We have not abandoned that. Reforming the Armed Forces is still our central theme and we maintain that as our approach to things."

"The bottom line is we're happy that by and large the merit system is working," Maligalig said.

He said seniority was still a major factor in the appointment or promotion of military officers.

"But it's not the deciding factor. There are other factors like track record, qualification, awards and decorations, and service reputation," he pointed out.

In the choice of AFP chief, however, the President's trust and confidence in a particular officer are the deciding factors, said AFP spokesman Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion.

Having friends in the right places is also a plus factor, according to retired Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya, chair and president of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers.

Expression

"You cannot eliminate that. Other than being good, you should be known. Too bad if you're an unknown. If I have to choose between you and another person and I happen to know the other one personally, naturally I'll be inclined to give the position to that fellow," Gidaya said.

More than correcting a seeming inequality, Biazon described the new law as an "expression of the national government's deep and unwavering concern for the welfare of Filipino soldiers. It should, at the very least, look after those whose dedication and courage help us sleep soundly at night."

Under Section 7 of RA 9166, implementation of the pay hike "shall be undertaken in staggered phases, but not to exceed two years and taking into consideration the financial position of the national government."

The first tranche of the salary increases is scheduled for this month, according to staff of both the Senate and House national defense panels.

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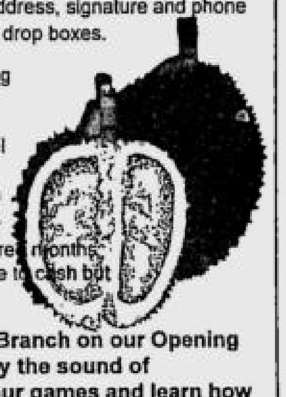

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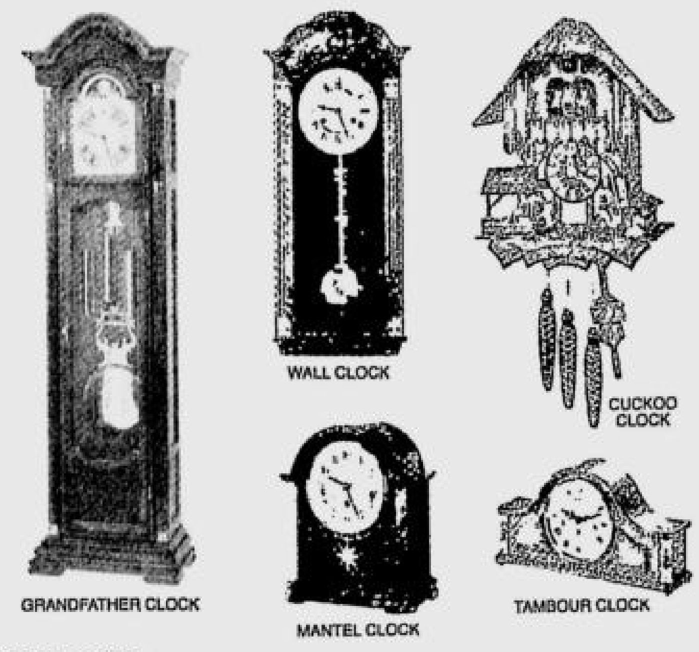

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OPINION

Eugenia D. Apostol *Founding Chairman*

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Another mistake

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo publicly admitted Tuesday that she has committed mistakes "left and right"—mostly political mistakes. By all indications, she is going to make another one when she appoints a new foreign secretary to replace Vice President Teofisto Guingona who is leaving the Cabinet on July 15. Unless she picks from among the four or five diplomats whose names have cropped up lately.

Ms Macapagal's first preference and therefore the frontrunner is reputed to be opposition Sen. Blas F. Ople. Two of her political lieutenants—her publicist Dante Ang and Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, her former chief of staff—have flown to Los Angeles, California, where Ople is vacationing, to make the offer. This is supposed to be a deft political move designed to tilt the balance in the deadlocked Senate in the administration's favor, although Ople has said he would not accept the post on those terms.

Undoubtedly Ople's appointment will break the deadlock in the Senate, allow the administration to claim the majority and possibly help speed up the enactment of administration measures. But it is hardly the political masterstroke it is being touted to be. Already some administration leaders are not too happy about handing over such an important post to the opposition. Some administration lawmakers have warned that this could alienate the President's partymates and political allies.

Still if it is just a question of who gets the spoils, Ms Macapagal can ignore the objection. But there are more fundamental issues that can be raised against Ople's appointment as the country's top diplomat.

Ople's boosters cite in his favor his long experience in foreign affairs, especially as chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, and his many years in the public service. Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez mentioned his "higher stature" compared to others who are being bruited about as a possible replacement for Guingona.

True Ople is long in experience, but he is getting short of breath. One lawmaker put the question succinctly: "How can we have a dynamic and vibrant foreign policy if we have an old and sickly secretary?"

As for Ople's claim to some superior stature, that is not going to pass unchallenged by those who worked hard to drive Joseph Estrada out of the presidency. For even as the evidence mounted that Estrada was leading the nation to ruin by his incompetence and corruption, Ople remained firmly in his camp. Sure he was not as fierce a defender of the disgraced leader as Senators Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor Santiago; he seemed to have slept through the historic but seemingly interminable Senate trial. But when it was time to stand up and be counted, he was there among the Craven Eleven who didn't want the people to see the evidence of Estrada's wrongdoing. In that hour of decision, did the country matter at all to this "nationalist"? Where was honor and principle for this man of superior "stature"?

Unless the Filipino people have developed amnesia, they cannot be happy about being represented before the international community by someone who turned his back on them at a critical period in history. Indeed how can a government installed by people power even think of letting Ople do so?

Maybe the Macapagal administration really thinks our people have a very short memory. Or perhaps it believes perversely that more than to the hundreds of thousands who marched at Edsa, Ms Macapagal owes a debt of gratitude to those whose disgusting words and disgraceful actions sparked people power. Thus, among the names being floated is not only Ople's but those of former Senators Francisco Tatad and Ernesto Maceda. So when will we hear of Atong Ang?

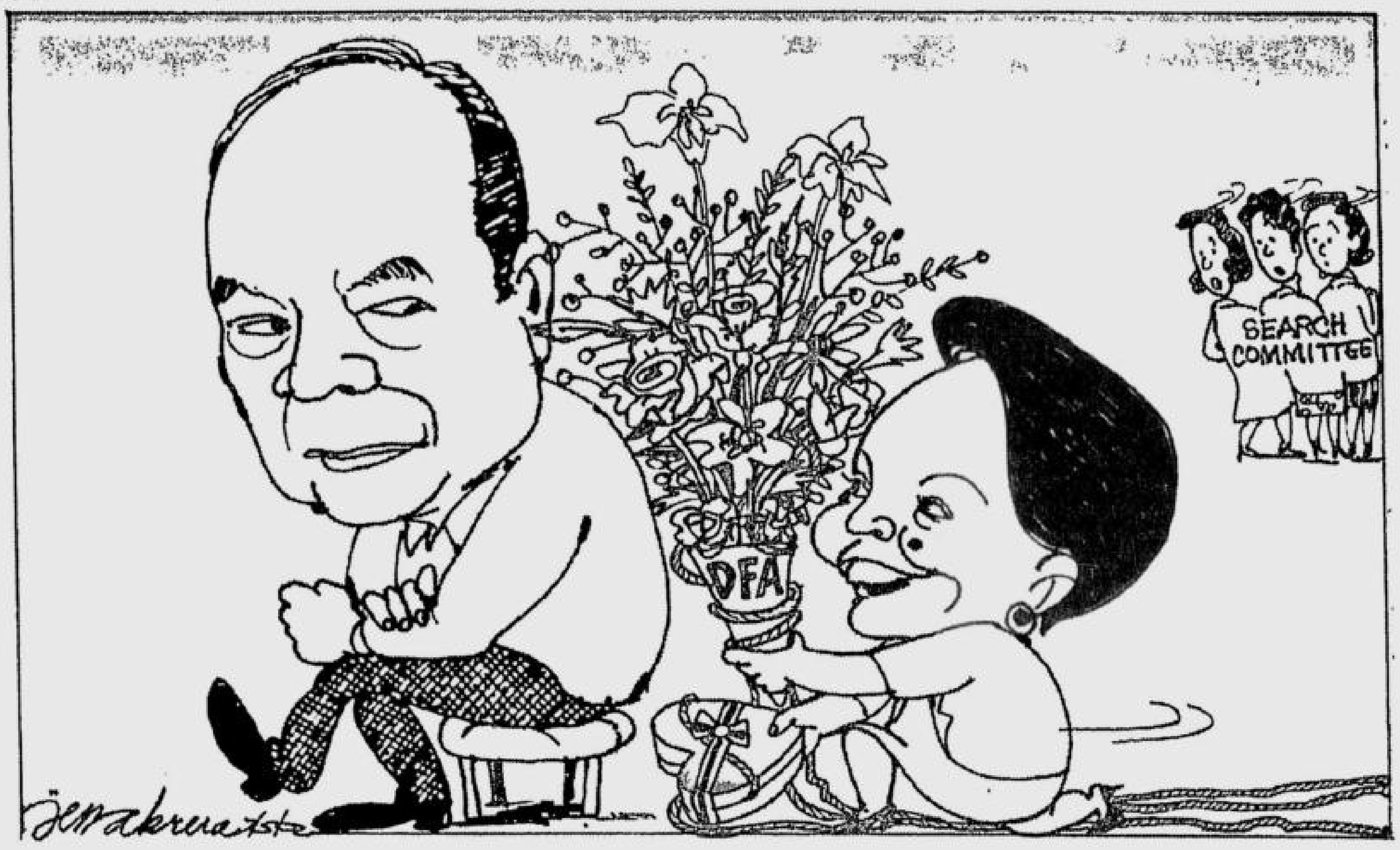
And we thought there was a change of administration.

Low expectations

FOREIGN COMMENT

GEORGE W. Bush is preparing for a peace initiative in the Middle East. It may possibly come already this week. But the president is fighting an uphill battle. His proposal for a Palestinian state has been rejected by both (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon and (Palestinian leader Yasser) Arafat. US analysts believe that because of this, Bush wants to avoid the issue and instead is advocating a gradual process with confidence-building efforts, international commitments and direct talks between the parties. But any real conditions for a breakthrough are difficult to see. The United States accuses the PLO for being corrupt and wants to get rid of Yasser Arafat. Ariel Sharon's opposition to a Palestinian state is deep-rooted. Still, Bush is right in trying. The expectations are so low that any progress means a step away from the brink of disaster. But then, it is up to Israel and PLO to allow the peace process to start.

Dagens Nyheter (Stockholm, Sweden)



'Open Skies' doesn't mean more tourists

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

IN OCTOBER next year, the "open skies" air transport agreement between the Philippines and the United States is scheduled to be implemented—if it is not postponed again. But in order to be postponed, there must be a one-year notice, and that deadline is fast approaching. Hence, the current debate regarding "open skies."

Why should the agreement be postponed? Because it is grossly disadvantageous to the Philippine aviation industry.

For the term "open skies" is a misnomer. Under the agreement, Philippine skies are indeed open to all American carriers. But there is no reciprocal privilege to Philippine carriers in the US mainland. Except for nine designated gateways, US skies are closed to Philippine carriers. Rights and privileges granted in agreements should be reciprocal, but in the RP-US air agreement, they are not.

Philippine carriers are not allowed to service all US cities. Philippine flights to the United States are required to stop at nine gateways. They are not allowed to service 16 US cities. And they can effectively serve only one out of five countries beyond the United States.

On the other hand, US carriers will have no route restrictions in the Philippines and beyond. They will have nearly unlimited access to markets between the Philippine and third countries, according to a briefing paper of Fiber (Federation Institute for Business and Economic Research).

US carriers will be allowed to service all Philippine cities. They can do so without restriction such as the use of mandatory gateways and stopovers. And from the Philippines, they have unmatched fifth freedom rights to proceed to third countries.

"Open skies" is being touted as the answer to our lagging tourism industry. The belief is that the more airliners come here, the more tourists they will bring. Wrong.

Tourists do not go to a destination simply because many airlines are going there. They must first be attracted by a tourist spot before they even look for a plane to fly them there. So "open skies" is tantamount to putting the cart before the horse. To attract tourists, the destination must first be promoted, the prices must be fair and the tourists must feel safe. But right now, tourists feel the Philippines is the unsafest spot in the world, next to Afghanistan and the Israeli-Palestine border.

Said Fiber: "We cannot expect Chinese tourists to visit the Philippines in hordes, when every now and then they hear that Chinese-Filipinos continue to be the favorite target of kidnap-for-ransom syndicates. No American family would be encouraged to visit a country described by an American official as 'the next Afghanistan,' where an American missionary couple spent a year as hostages of a terrorist group. The tourism industry can gain more from an improvement in the peace and order situation, rather than from more aircraft flying into the Philippines."

Besides, there is no need to increase flights to and from the Philippines and the United States because there is already an excess of traffic rights from here to the United States and back. Right now, the RP-US Air Transport Agreement (ATA) currently in force entitles each side to unlimited frequencies on Route 1 (RP-Micronesia); and 36 weekly passenger frequencies on Route 2 (RP-US).

But US carriers (Northwest) currently have only 14 weekly passenger flights from the United States to the Philippines (from 21 in early 2001), seven from San Francisco and seven from Detroit, thus utilizing only 39 percent of its Route 2 entitlement. All Northwest flights to Manila are operated via Japan and thus only half of aircraft capacity is reserved for the Philippine market.

Continental Micronesia/Air Micronesia operates only 11 flights between Manila and Guam/Saipan.

On the other hand, Philippine Airlines operates only 22 weekly passenger flights from the Philippines to the United States, 11 to San Francisco, nine to Los Angeles and two to Honolulu, or only 61 percent of its Route 2 frequency entitlements.

On Route 1, PAL resumed thrice weekly flights to Guam last June 21, thus ending Continental's monopoly there.

Thus, if there was a passenger demand for more flights, PAL and Northwest can still use their remaining entitlements, which will about double their frequencies. Why then is there a need for "open skies" or unlimited flights to the Philippines?

Including other carriers, 10 airlines have 179 flights every week between Manila and the United States, with stopovers in other third country cities. So there is no lack of airliners to bring tourists to the Philippines. Tourists are staying away not because of lack of carriers but because of other reasons. We all know what they are. To the tourists, Metro Manila is just one big garbage dump. It is difficult to move around because of traffic congestion. It is unsafe to go to the countryside where the beautiful beaches are. It is uncomfortable to travel within the Philippines because of the lack of clean comfort rooms.

The government, particularly the Department of Tourism, must first put things in order before tourists will want to come here in droves. Only then will "open skies" be probably necessary.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

A man told Erap: Sir, *sinusunog ang effigy n'yo sa labas!*

Erap: *Bakit pati naman ang kaibigan kong si FPJ ay sinasali nila?*

Pride chicken

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THE IRONY is that while a sizeable portion of our population has given up on the country, finding it hopeless, the populations of other Asian countries are experiencing unparalleled levels of national pride, finding in their countries the equivalent of heaven itself. The irony is that while a sizeable portion of our population would like nothing better than to leave the country, the populations of other Asian countries would like nothing better than to live in theirs the rest of their lives. The irony is that while we're reaching depths of abject failure, other Asian countries are reaching heights of sublime accomplishment.

Korea has already done the seemingly impossible, which was to barge into the World Cup quarterfinals. That may not mean much to us, for whom the center of the universe is the NBA, but it means the universe to other Asian countries. It wasn't just Korea that went agog over its joining the world's soccer superpowers, all of Asia did. The support for Korea from the other Asian countries has been overwhelming, bringing together a continent riven by war and strife to a fitful truce. It has made Asians proud to be Asians.

Closer to home, a Thai has carved a name for himself in tennis also by doing the seemingly impossible. Paradorn Srichaphan beat Andre Agassi in the second round of Wimbledon. In fact, he didn't just beat him, he trounced him—in three straight sets. I saw the game. By the third set, Agassi, the player who has always found a way to claw back from adversity, was a broken man. He wore a bewildered look, unable to comprehend what was happening to him. It wasn't that he played badly, it was that Srichaphan played brilliantly. He served well, ran well, and drilled in winners with remarkable consistency.

Of course he also fell to Richard Krajicek in straight sets in the next round, but he has blazed trails for other Asians. He himself should have a bright future ahead of him.

There is a player of Filipino parentage in the cast at Wimbledon, but that is just what he is, a Filipino player of Filipino parentage, not a Filipino. The two are not the same. He is Cecil Mamiit, who was born and raised in the United States, and plays, like Michael Chang, as an American. The official pronunciation of his name itself suggests to what country he belongs. It's "Mamet" not "Mami-it," as we ourselves would say. I remember him well not just because I rooted for him some years ago in one Grand Slam tournament—I do not recall what it was, might have been Roland Garros—but because he was just the subject of a conversation some months ago between a friend and I.

At the time, Filipino sports officials were talking about luring him to play tennis for the Philippines in the Asian Games. I do not know now if it was Eric Buhain who said he would settle for nothing less, and was prepared to pay a fortune for his services. That pissed off a very good friend of mine, Ray Salvosa, himself the product of American schools, but who takes his being a Filipino very seriously. Quite apart from the fact that it was a waste of good money, Ray said, which could very well be put to good use developing local athletes, why the (unprintable) would we want to hire Fil-Ams to represent the country in sporting events? In fact, why the (unprintable) would we have them strutting around in the PBA and playing as locals? They're not locals. They're not ours. Fil-Am is just a convenient label to use, but the people to whom it refers are not Fil, they are Ams. They are probably more Ams than Ams of the WASP variety.

I sympathized wholeheartedly with my friend. Root for a Fil-Am in an international competition, yes. Ask him to represent us in an international competition, no. Pay him a fortune to do so, unprintable too.

Poverty is no excuse. The innate or God-given desire to seek greener pastures is no excuse. God gave us the desire to seek greener pastures, he did not give us the desire to become cows. Other people look for greener pastures too, but they come back when they've fed. Look at Brazil. The reason they did poorly in the qualifying rounds of the World Cup was simply the fact that their players had been playing for various teams abroad, particularly in Europe, where they were paid a fortune—and much adulation—to do so. They had not been playing for very long as a team, many of them having just come home to represent Brazil in the world's greatest sporting event.

But come home they did. Not as Spaniards, not as Italians, not as French, but as Brazilians. They remained Brazilians in thought, word and deed. I say that because we also have this concept, or excuse, expressed in the proposal for dual citizenship, that it's okay to be an American citizen so long as your heart remains Filipino. That is as barbaric an understanding of citizenship as they come. But that too is another story. Suffice it to say here that there was not a player in the Brazilian team—or indeed in the German one, whom they defeated in the finals—whose heart and mind did not belong entirely to his country.

I said it before and I say it again. It's not true that "pride" cannot be eaten and only "pride chicken" can. Pride, which resonates in sovereignty, independence, loyalty and duty, is the most edible thing there is. It is certainly far more edible than "pride chicken," which is the crumbs we've always grabbed in exchange for the national patrimony. Look at where the other Asian countries are now, and look at us. You have pride, you will make mountains and make the world spin. You have pride, you will make love and make war. You have pride, you will make song and make peace.

You have "pride chicken," you will only make do. You will only make babies.

Ignoring the nexus between economics and politics

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had enough candor to admit before the Makati business elite that she had committed "political mistakes left and right but I keep my economic policy correct."

But she is not even accurate in her claim of having a "correct" economic policy. Her claim flies in the face of the ballooning budget deficit which soared to P107.54 billion in the first five months.

The deficit exceeded by P29.2 billion the P78.26 billion target set by the government for the first six months. The widening of the deficit is due to the decline in tax collection, unchecked government spending and increased borrowing.

Despite the grim report, the government's economic managers put up a bold front, saying that they were "committed" to the deficit target of P130 billion for 2002. The swelling deficit sent stock prices falling 4 percent, fueled by fears of higher interest rates. The market was also unsettled by the volatile political developments during the past few days, highlighted by the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as foreign secretary.

The market is as sensitive to economic developments as it is to political events, underlining the point that economic management cannot be made in isolation from politics.

The talk by the President to the Makati-based businessmen, separating her economic management from politics illustrates, first, that bad political judgments have an adverse impact on the economy, and, second, that she is politically naïve by ignoring the nexus between economics and politics.

There's no dispute that, as she described her style, she is not flamboyant and charismatic and she is just a "plodder and a hard worker." It is equally true that she is not prone to "say electrifying things." The incontrovertible fact is that she spends long hours at work, is methodical and does her homework.

Some months ago, she wondered, nearly in despair, why despite the work she puts into the presidency, she had been relentlessly bashed and criticized. But much of the bashing emanate from flawed political judgment, those effects impair her ability to pursue economic reform and goals, especially in a Senate paralyzed by a leadership impasse.

She has exposed her weakness in political management of crisis when she mishandled the resignation of Guingona. The faux pas on Guingona was absolutely unnecessary, since she and the Vice President had already a tacit and well-scripted agreement that Guingona would step down on July 15. The premature release of the June 26 letter signed by the President thanking Guingona for "relinquishing" the Department of Foreign Affairs portfolio not only upset the plan. It plunged the Cabinet and the ruling party, Lakas, of which Guingona is president, to the edge of a crisis, and is a towering example of political clumsiness and ineptitude.

She not only alienated Guingona and a number of party faithful, at a time when she needs allies against the assault of the opposition determined to unsettle her administration. She also compounded the blunder by linking the sack of Guingona to the effort to break the Senate standoff by offering the DFA portfolio to opposition Sen. Blas Ople.

The obsessive effort to win over Ople, using the DFA as a trade-off, is a bad and unwise political move. It involves a cynical trade-off between short-term political gain (i.e., breaking the Senate deadlock) and a coherent and stable foreign policy.

It shows disrespect for the importance of the DFA as the premier Cabinet post, and I have yet to come across an instance in international politics, where a government cedes the foreign ministry to the opposition. In a coalition, such as in Germany, when a Christian Democrat Union-Free Democratic Party (Liberal) coalition government held power, the ministry of foreign affairs and the economics ministry were ceded to the liberals in their power sharing.

In President Macapagal's bumbling political maneuvering, she is giving up her ace (the DFA) to an opposition member whose prospects of doing a better job than Guingona are not so bright. The impasse in the Senate might be broken by Ople's switch, but the President will not gain advantages other than a short-lived one—retaining control of the Senate. The President is throwing her queen away in a reckless political gamble.

If Ople grabs the offer, we will be locked into him for the next two years during which foreign policy is not expected to be executed and implemented with either energy or consistency. Ople's energy level is suspect. He may be as old as Guingona but the latter, at least, can play a set of singles tennis, while Ople, in the Senate hearings or sessions, can hardly stay awake.

And if the President thinks that Ople will be more manageable and compliant than Guingona, she better read up on Ople's background. Ople's record shows he likes to posture himself as a nationalist of the type that's hard to place. It is hard to predict the positions he would take on the sensitive issues of RP-US relations stemming from the administration's strong backing of the US-led war on international terrorism and from the growing military presence of US forces in the Philippines.

Guingona was at least consistent in his objections to unrestrained US involvement in the Balikatan exercises targeting the Abu Sayyaf—a stance that immensely irritated President Macapagal.

Foreign policy, which the President thinks is her forte, should be the last card she should throw away to buy domestic political peace. The pursuit of Ople betrays that the President's flawed political priorities are not only skin-deep.

On the menu: IT, power and crime

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FROM THE BASIC elementary curriculum to El Niño, from the country's ICT competitiveness to electricity rates and problematic power plants, from Vice President Tito Guingona to the seven ousted police generals—these made up the range of topics covered in a recent dinner hosted the other night by the President for a group of broadsheet columnists, this columnist included.

Unfortunately, for you and for us, the President requested that every time she mentioned people by name we should consider her utterances "off the record." Which means that the really juicy stuff must be left out of this report. Still, here are a few things that could safely be mentioned:

She feels "bad" about being painted the villain of the piece in the recent imbroglio surrounding Guingona's resignation as foreign secretary. The Vice President, she says, had agreed to resign from the Department of Foreign Affairs and she authorized Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable to release her letter accepting the resignation on the assumption that it was already official.

The President has decided, for now, to concentrate on "a couple of things that will make the big difference" for the Filipino people. In her case, these two things are peace and order and electricity, more specifically, lower electricity rates.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina had informed her beforehand of "problems" within the Philippine National Police in relation to illegal gambling, and had said some police generals would be involved. But she had the impression that what Lina had in mind was a "revamp" and not outright suspension. She believes, though, that some of the generals might have grounds to ask for a reconsideration and, given their record, just might be granted it.

* * *

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is quite optimistic about the chances of her efforts to bring down the cost of electricity locally. As she said in a statement, from being No. 2 in Asia in terms of electricity cost, she hopes to bring down the Philippines' standing to number six, if not lower.

When I told her my electricity bill for June was already P3,000 lower than the previous month's, her face lit up and promised even better news in the bill for July.

She has already studied the committee report on IPP's or independent power producers, the President said. A study of the contracts and agreements between the power producers and the government, she said, has yielded the following results: six are "good," meaning aboveboard; five are "problematic," that is, legally and financially flawed; 22 are legally aboveboard but marked by financial shortcomings in varying degrees; two have "legal infirmities"; and two are currently under negotiation.

But she is confident that with "the best financial team in the world," as well as the Department of Justice handling legal matters, enough of the contracts and agreements can be negotiated in favor of the government and thus bring down the price of power in the country.

Now, if only something could be done about those kidnappings...

* * *

DEANIE Bocobo, one of the guests at the dinner who writes regular commentaries for this paper, cautioned our host against "putting all your eggs in the IT basket." Filipinos still lag far behind their counterparts in other countries in the region in terms of access to computers and to the Internet, he said, and the Philippines has one of the lowest "Internet densities" in this part of the world.

To this the President replied that encouraging investments by IT firms, from call centers to programming, is only part of an overall investment strategy.

I also feel that Deanie need not fret overmuch about the shallow penetration of Internet culture in these parts. The biggest stumbling block, after all, is economic, with fewer Filipinos able to afford their own PC's, though Internet cafés are taking up the slack. But in terms of level of comfort with the technology and aptitude for it, I think Filipinos are quite ready to make the leap.

Filipinos have already shown they can adapt to new technologies with surprising ease. Texting, for instance, has been eagerly embraced by Filipinos of all ages and backgrounds, so that today it's used not just to send messages cheaply, but also for passing jokes, joining game shows, sending opinions and questions to news shows, and shopping. There's even technology, I'm told, that allows anyone to pinpoint your location just by sending you a text message. In Japan, teen-age streetwalkers have begun using the technology to send personalized messages and set assignations with potential customers. You don't even need retina scanners for this form of personalized marketing!

* * *

A TELLING sign of how deep down IT has penetrated our everyday life is the use of e-mail by viewers to send feedback to the makers of their favorite shows.

Ever wondered why the plots of your favorite nightly soap operas twist and turn with such dizzying speed and complications? I'm told that the producers rely on a group of viewers who e-mail in their comments and criticisms on a nightly basis, discussing characters, criticizing plot turns and convey feedback on everything from the wardrobe, make-up, dialogue and new characters. Trying to please this core of fanatics, the producers respond by tweaking the script and plot movement, though I must say character development leaves much to be desired.

But if soap devotees, not exactly known for being on the cutting edge of change, are already so at ease with the technology they can use it for instant criticism, how much longer will it take the rest of the population to catch up?

Doreen

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WITH THE PASSING of Doreen G. Fernandez I finally am an orphan. Doreen was the first of a group of mentors and friends who contributed, rightly or wrongly, to my becoming a historian and a journalist. In my columns over the years I have written about Doreen and her work on food and Philippine culture and now I regret that I have not written a book on her as I did other mentors like E. Aguilar Cruz (a small book, "The Paintings of E. Aguilar Cruz," 1986) and Teodoro A. Agoncillo ("Talking History: Conversations with Agoncillo," 1995). Doreen edited the book on Abe Cruz and was the one who suggested I tape my interviews with Agoncillo and publish them. Furthermore, Doreen was keen enough to see promise in a thick batch of notes I took while I was handling original Rizal manuscripts in the National Library. She looked at them, made some suggestions and the result was a bibliographic tool published under the title "A Calendar of Rizaliana in the Vault of the National Library" (1993).

When I published my first books in 1990 I reminded her that I never got an "A" in her class. My highest mark must have been a "C+" and yet I would get even by publishing as many books as she did. From that time at our book launchings we would each be inspired by our race to produce more. Doreen may be gone physically, but she lives on in the memories of people whose lives she touched. Each book I publish from now on will remind me of Doreen and our race.

As a historian I know how fleeting memory can be and I am consoled by the fact that Doreen is still within reach in my study through the many books she published: "The Iloilo Zarzuela: 1903-1930" (1978) was originally a doctoral dissertation but reads very well; there are two volumes of interviews with Filipino writers co-authored by Edilberto Alegre, "The Writer and His Milieu an Oral History of First Generation Writers in English," (1984) and "Writers and their Milieu: An oral history of Second Generation Writers in English" (1987). These two books were the inspiration for my own book on Agoncillo; there are two books on restaurants, "Lasa: A Guide to 100 Restaurants" (1989) and "Lasa: A Guide to Dining in the Provinces" (1990). These guides may be dated, but the sensibility and good clear writing remain the same; then there were the compilations of her essays: "Sarap: Essays on Philippine Food" (1988) and "Tikim: Essays on Philippine Food and Culture" (1994); she had a book on "Kinilaw" (1991), on "Fruits of the Philippines" (1997), and another called "Palabas: Essays on Philippine Theater History" (1996). I may have missed out on a few other titles like her monograph and video-documentary on Philippine Literature, Panitikan and something on dance called "In Performance." Her last book was the most visual, it was called "Palayok: Philippine Food Through Time, On Site, In the Pot" (2000) and I know she had completed a manuscript on the life and times of her husband Wili. Perhaps more will be found in her computer.

Long before I met Abe Cruz and Teddy Agoncillo, it was Doreen who introduced me to research, Filipiniana, theater and good food. The first time we shared a meal was when I was in her freshman English class in the Ateneo two decades ago. McDonald's had opened its first branch on Recto Avenue and we drove all the way from Quezon City braving the traffic and lack of parking to buy 20 burgers, fries and apple pies. Our loot was brought back to our English class in Ateneo where everyone was asked to comment on the burgers and test the much publicized McDonald's consistency and quality.

We did not just eat, we did research, conversed, kept in touch and in all those meals I always learned something new or saw something old in a new light. For example, we once had lunch at the original Smart Panciteria off Escolta where she taught me how to open a fish head and discern the 13 different flavors hidden within. She proceeded with the head of a pigeon and I was too squeamish to follow. Most memorable though was driving all the way to Victoria, Tarlac where we learned how to cook and eat goat. With notebook and camera she documented the whole process from the time the poor creature was bleating in the backyard to the finished dish on our plates. Doreen even noted that Ilocano cooking used everything except the hooves and horns of the goat. Now I wish I took those as souvenirs.

Doreen reviewed my book, "Rizal Without the Overcoat" and that has since become the preface to succeeding editions. There she wrote:

"Not too many years ago, Ambeth was a member of my freshman English honors class. He wrote fast and well—usually just before the class—hardly ever rereading what he had written. Through the years we have kept in touch, trying out restaurants, going to plays and talking about research. Ambeth's book which is not only good 'micro-history' but also good reading and does the unusual by turning readers into historians, is one of the greatest rewards a teacher could possibly have."

My way of remembering Doreen after all the services this week and the next will be to eat well, write well, teach well and produce more books.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Jesuit funeral

HIGH BLOOD

Denis Murphy

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

SIXTY or so Jesuit priests sat around the altar at the Loyola School of Theology for the funeral of Fr. Ken Bogart. The chapel was quiet save for the sound of birds in the trees outside. In the moments after communion, people sat peacefully until time seemed to stop, like raindrops hanging forever on an orchid's petulant lip.

Few lay people were there because the dead priest had spent almost his whole active life being what may be called "executive secretary" to Jesuit provincial superiors. He did invaluable work during the martial law years, but few knew about it.

The eulogy by Fr. John Carroll like most eulogies at Jesuit funerals talked of the good and hard times in the dead priest's life. It's humbling to realize the good persons can do if they set their minds to do it and work away faithfully year after year. The eulogies usually end thanking God for giving the priests to all of us for so many years. There is a sense of assurance that the work they were part of will continue, a quiet acceptance of death and an air of confidence that it is not the last word.

Watching the priests at the altar it was possible to trace the history of the order. There were fewer gray heads than five years ago and many more black-haired young men. There were also fewer Americans. The youngest of the remaining Americans are in their 60s. The American Jesuit era has faded into the past, like the Spanish era before it. It is now clearly the Filipino era.

As the eras shift, it's tempting to look for the high or defining moments. Rightly or wrongly, centuries of work by the Spaniards are now judged in the light of Philippine sovereignty: Did they support it or not? Did they prepare their students for it? Did they help Jose Rizal, for example? A defining moment might be the presence of Jesuits in Rizal's cell the night before he was shot. It is a complex scene if what is now said is true, that they supplied the evidence that convicted Rizal.

What standard will be applied to the American Jesuits' years of service to the country? What has been their special contribution? Most people will think of education, work and that may be so, but perhaps it was their work for social justice. They dominated Church-related social action work up to the eve of martial law in 1972. If there were Church people prepared then to deal with issues of poverty and human rights, it was largely due to the Jesuits. Fr. Joseph Mulry brought the social encyclicals to public notice in the 1930s. Fr. Walter Hogan helped start the Federation of Free Workers. Fathers Hector Mauri and Arthur Weiss helped the late Jeremias Montemayor start the Federation of Free Farmers. Father Mauri started union work among the sugar workers. Fr. Gaston Duchesneau pioneered credit unions and cooperative work. Jesuits helped start community organizing work in Tondo. Fr. William Masterson started the College of Agriculture and the Searsolin Training Institute for rural development in Cagayan de Oro, the first Church efforts in these matters. Some of his fellow Jesuits thought he had lost his mind when he talked of a Jesuit school for improved rice production and vegetables. All along the Jesuit Institute of Social Order trained priests, bishops, sisters and lay people how to think about and help solve the problems of poverty. After martial law Jesuits lost their predominance, but by then there were many others to do the work.

The American defining moment might be Father Hogan organizing stevedores, striding along the docks in Manila in the white *sutana* priests wore in those days. He once told the writer of the night he said a Rosary over the body of one of his men killed in the union wars, while HUK partisans looked on, wondering, he said, if they had been wrong about the Church.

What will be the mark of the Filipino Jesuit era? The story is told that Fr. Pedro Arrupe, late general of the Jesuits, told Filipino Jesuits at the Ateneo de Manila that he expected them to live more poorly once the Americans were gone.

By what standards will future generations judge today's Filipino Jesuits? What will they do? What will the nation thank them for? What will be their defining moment? I asked friends for suggestions. They said they hope Filipino Jesuits will continue the academic excellence of their schools, become themselves leaders in their academic specialties and involve themselves deeply with the poor and the struggle for justice. No small order.

What does this mean to all the rest of us?

The Jesuits have been a strand of consistency that has helped hold the country together for the past years. There are many others of course, including other religious orders and denominations, the public and private school teachers, the decent public servants who make the government work despite tremendous obstacles, the NGOs, the labor unions and people's organizations. They deserve our sincere thanks.

Denis Murphy is in his 60s and works for the Urban Poor Associates.

THEY SAID

Old story

"This is an Erap II version, and we should learn our lessons from Erap. He was very popular but he was a failure in running the state because the responsibility was beyond his intellectual capacity."

—Bayan Muna Northern Luzon coordinator Manuel Loste on the possibility of Fernando Poe Jr. running for the presidency

Better bedmates

"There is no way I am going to sleep with the enemy."

—Sen. Renato Cayetano on the proposed "working coalition" in the Senate

Failure of intelligence

"We have the best men in the field, but they will not be able to do the job right if the intelligence information that they are getting is neither credible nor factual."

—Rep. Apolinario Lozada Jr. on the inability of the military to capture the Abu Sayyaf

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GMA unable to see reality

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's statement brushing aside the INQUIRER's banner story on Pulse Asia's recent survey only shows her and her administration's failure to see reality as most Filipinos see it. I wonder what consolation, if there's any, can be taken from the news that 60 percent of Filipinos want to remain and the rest are either contemplating or wanting to leave this God-forsaken country. The fact is—and that's the news (albeit bad!)—40 percent of Filipinos still find this country hopeless. That's a lot especially if the President is eyeing the 2004 elections.

She has had, in the past, painted rosy pictures of Philippine reality from figures and statistics that never really matter to Filipinos. Maybe she can show us how this time.

If indeed the INQUIRER is a (false) prophet of bad news, the President is the harbinger of false hopes.

—MCANDREW CHUA, Unit 10, BGH1 Roxas Blvd., Barangay Tambo, Parañaque City

Unfair to Bert Lina

THIS refers to your news story on June 28 titled "More heads will roll in 'jueteng' drive" wherein Bert Lina's name was mentioned again. For the third time in less than a year, this man has been a victim of character assassination by people who were obviously hit by Interior Secretary Jose Lina's honest-to-goodness campaign against *jueteng*.

Based on your report, Mary "Rosebud" Ong was apparently referring to Bert when she claimed that, "If Secretary Lina has any evidence against the seven generals, you should come up with your evidence...you should also come up with evidence against your brother...including his involvement in illegal drugs and *jeuteng*."

I really can't help but feel sorry for this man whom I've come to know well in my seven years' stay in one of his companies. He has high regard for objectivity and fairness and has a rigorous work ethic. He comes to the office as early as 6 in the morning and would always be the last to go home. A very patriotic man, ADL or Tata Bert as he is fondly called, was leading his thousands of employees in the flag ceremony as early as 6:30 on Monday mornings at his Cargohaus Building in the Naia Complex in Parañaque. Probably, we are the only private company in the area performing this patriotic act weekly.

Bert leads a very low-profile life although he was always in the public's eye for his active involvement in sports development in the country. Bert become a household word to sports lovers, athletes and fans. He was a benefactor of our national basketball team sent abroad to compete in the South East Asian Games. One of his biggest companies, Airfreight 2100 Inc., owns the FedEx Express Team in the Philippine Basketball Association.

One thing is for sure, a good man like Bert Lina cannot be put down.

—JUANA CARLOTA, Cargohaus Bldg., Naia Complex, Parañaque City

Naga City supports Lina's moves

WE hail Interior Secretary Jose Lina for having the courage to put himself on the line by sacking top officials of the Philippine National Police for their failure to stop illegal gambling operations.

Lina has done the right thing in exacting full accountability from police officials who, by their very rank and position, have the means, the men and the authority to directly stop *jueteng* in their respective jurisdictions. For local officials like us, this is an encouraging change from the empty rhetoric and lame excuses we hear from responsible officials when asked about *jueteng*. Rather than saying: "we have our hands full of more important crimes," or that "there will be no *jueteng* if there are no bettors," Lina has made a statement louder than words: he acted with dispatch and took to task the officials involved, sparing not even the major players of Edsa II.

We at the Naga City government stand four square behind this move of Lina. All too often, local officials are the first to be blamed if *jueteng* persists in a locality. But try as we may, without the support of the police hierarchy, our localized campaigns to stop illegal gambling is inutile against cross boundary operations of well-financed and influential syndicates.

We hope everyone now reads the message: the national government has the will and the leadership to confront illegal gambling head on. Heads will roll if need be. Congratulations Secretary Lina

—JESSE M. ROBREDO, mayor, Naga City

Why were these cops reinstated?

THE NATIONAL Police Commission's decision to sack several police regional directors and provincial directors in places where illegal activities could not be stopped is laudable and must be supported by the people.

It is only the honest officials of the Napolcom who can clean up the police organization, not the top officials in Camp Crame who are perceived to be the ultimate protectors and beneficiaries of the scalawags in the force.

I cite the cases of two dismissed policemen in the Occidental Mindoro police provincial office. After due process and summary dismissal proceedings, PO3 Roberto Q. Bundang of Sablayan was dismissed from the service on Sept. 23, 2000 due to drug addiction, only to be reinstated later through a memo approved by the Region 4 policed director.

I also cite the case of PO1 Joeffrey L. Dangeros also of Sablayan who was dismissed from the police on Aug. 9, 2002 for murder, only to be reinstated also through a memo approved by the same regional director.

Will this police official kindly tell the people of Occidental Mindoro his basis for keeping an alleged murderer and a drug user in the service instead of sending them to jail or to rehabilitation?

—RODOLFO MEIM ACEBES, Mindoro Guardian, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro 5100

Baseless and cruel gossip

THIS is in response to a news report last June 28, 2002 regarding my alleged lobbying to have Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo replaced by Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz.

I take this opportunity to welcome Romulo as he reassumed his post last week. He is an honest, hardworking and competent person. He is one of the few public servants who embody good governance and unquestionable integrity.

The nasty rumors linking me to his ouster is not only in bad taste but cruel in view of the fact that he is still recovering from a recent heart bypass operation. I was even one of the few who donated blood for his successful operation.

While I have nothing against Secretary Avelino Cruz whose diligence and legal prowess are beyond question, Romulo remains the big brother and father to all the Cabinet members.

Lastly, talks of a revamp or reorganization should not worry our people. The last thing we need right now is either a political crisis or a gossip contest as to "who's in and who's out." It is the President's sole prerogative to reorganize or revamp the Cabinet according to her best judgment. I submit to that prerogative.

Let the President in the midst of recovery put the best team for our country. Again, I humbly submit myself to the President, Edsa II and to the nation.

—MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR, secretary, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, 6/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City

Is the DENR accomplishment report credible?

THIS refers to the story you published last June 21 on the Sona accomplishment report of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

A week before the report of Environment Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez on his Sona accomplishments, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was raving mad at the DENR for failing to meet the department's commitment to her Sona.

I fully understand why the DENR fell short of its commitment to the Sona. As a lawyer, I have handled land dispute cases before, and this made me familiar with the various procedures involved in the issuance of land titles.

The process is tedious. For a person to get a land title over a public land, he has to file first an application for a title or patent with the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) of the DENR where the land being applied for is located. The application passes through several steps (which I cannot enumerate due to space consideration) before it goes up to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), then to the DENR regional office and, finally, to the DENR Central Office for the signing of the patent. And at each of these stages, there are procedures or steps to be complied with.

Given this, I got a double shocker when I read in that article the claim of the DENR that it was able to issue certificates of allocation covering 150,002.34 hectares for 116,000 families. The other shocker was the insinuation that these certificates are instruments of ownership when in fact they are not and cannot be.

A certificate of allocation and a land title are two different documents. The first is an internal document showing that a person has applied for a title over a parcel of public land and that it has passed through the initial stages or procedures for the issuance of a land title. The certificate of allotment is not issued to an applicant but rather it forms part of the "*carpeta*" or folder containing all relevant documents. The second is the final document that proves that he is now the real owner of the land after satisfying the requirements of the law.

While the document issued is just a certificate of allotment, it would still take the department an average of about four to eight weeks to process a single certificate—what more for 116,000 applications even with its decentralized operation! And when he can be awarded a patent or a title or any instrument of ownership over said parcel of land after getting the certificate of allotment is a question only God knows.

Therefore, the claim of the DENR that it has issued 116,000 certificates of allotment covering 150,002.34 hectares is an immense lie. They are also trying to deceive the people and the President, by calling the certificates some sort of an instrument showing ownership over a piece of land when in fact they are not.

I think Alvarez is trying to resort to magic to enable him to get the nod of the Commission on Appointments.

He is clinging to the Cabinet position with all his might! *Kapit tuko talaga!* As he has been bypassed by the commission for a record four times, (which means that its members have no plans of confirming his appointment), he has to resort to these tactics to ensure his stay in the department.

—JOSEFINA T. CRUZ, 69 Dahlia St., North Fairview, Quezon City

What do you think about the 'sacking' of 7 PNP generals?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

THE RELIEF of the seven PNP officials for allegedly failing to curb illegal gambling in their respective jurisdictions is a welcome move by the government, the Napolcom in particular. I just hope it's not a *"moro-moro"* or a "show" intended mainly to counter the dipping approval rating of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

By the way, it's curious why no official from Ilocos, Singson's *jueteng* territory, was sacked. Does it mean that the campaign against *jueteng* in Ilocos is successful?—**conway**

* * *

I believe that there was an injustice done to the police generals. They should have at least been given a warning that this was coming and that they were being sacked. I find it hard to believe that all seven generals were sacked at the same time. To me, something fishy is going on and Interior Secretary Jose Lina is up to something. He may be removing these police officers from power due to some future plans to overthrow or destabilize the administration.—**AkoyPinoy**

* * *

The relief of top-ranking PNP officials, Berroya included, may strike people as the resurgence and steeling of the civilian authority's political will and resolve to combat what seems to be an insuperable force. At first glance, it appears the administration is no longer beholden to people thought to be responsible for its political success and/or underwriting its expenses. Less the histrionics, Secretary Lina, in representing the administration, just demonstrated how the dispensation of political favors has become passé or something to that effect with the sacking of highly placed people.

Still, we must bother ourselves with the logic behind the swift blow dealt the incredulous police generals, who may have thought they had total immunity from reproach and persecution from their superiors. After all, they were very much dedicated to their work and, perhaps, eager to score some more points to curry favor with their political masters. Indeed, the means was harsh, despite the laudable end.

Can we really rest assured that a new crop of police generals will be able to make a significant dent on *jueteng* in so short a time? What makes them so special and different from their predecessors? We can only hope that Secretary Lina's iron-hand approach bear fruit to save him from future embarrassment and, worse, from a cabal of scheming and by then retired generals egging for a payback.—**rady1976**

* * *

I'm not a gambler but I don't believe *jueteng* can be eradicated. Because in this Third World country of ours where salaries are not enough to support a family, the only option is to engage in gambling the simplest way, one of which is *jueteng*. It gives some people hope that they may win to survive for days to come.—**barik**

* * *

Another option is to make *jueteng* legal and taxed....it would create employment and the tax collected could be used to finance government projects, etc....just a thought...*non sequitur*

Legalizing *jueteng* has long been an option. In fact, one congressman, a successful local executive and a retired police general have made separate position papers regarding this. The problem is we are too conservative a country and too tied to the Catholic Church to even consider the feasibility of the proposal.—**rady1976**

* * *

Maybe it is too simplistic to ask why can't they stop *jueteng* when they knew who runs them.

They were given orders to put a stop to it but did not!

One thing is sure, though. They failed to do their duties well in the campaign against *jueteng*! Would they therefore be allowed to continue in the service? Unless the system is really that rotten, they will sooner or later be excused for political expedient reasons!

But for police matters, they should never be allowed to continue! The reason is simple: They simply could not discharge their duties well, period!

Others may ask, why weren't they given advance notice or warning that they will be sacked?

The answer to that is moot and academic—meaning, it does not matter because notices or warnings cannot change the fact thet they did not do their jobs! They don't even deserve any explanations for their relief!

Jueteng cannot operate in a certain municipality, city or province without the knowledge of the mayor or governor. Goodwill money is given to each official to keep his or her silence. I am wondering why no mayor or governor is being sacked by Secretary Joey Lina. It appears that the DILG chief is selective in his campaign to put an end to illegal gambling. Spare no one to be fair.—**Diego AKS**

* * *

Lina's move is purely political. *Jueteng* is Filipino. The best thing that the government can do is legalize it and collect revenue from it. License the operators. I repeat, you will not get rid of it...—**enterprise**

Meaningful advocacy in TV commercials

AGENCIES fully or partially owned by the government, especially those that allot a sizable sum annually for public awareness campaigns, should follow the lead of the Development Bank of the Philippines insofar as relevant and meaningful advocacy TV commercials are concerned.

The DBP keeps up with its tradition of effective and succinct media campaigns by coming out with "Kayod," the 60-second TV ad series that puts the spotlight on industry and sense of community. Instead of empty rhetoric and abstract ideas, the new TV commercials concretely answer the government's call to speed up economic development in general, and address poverty alleviation, in particular. The simple message is: You want to grow economically? You have no one to rely on but yourself.

—MARCO C. DEL ROSARIO, 47 Aduana St., New Intramuros Village, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City

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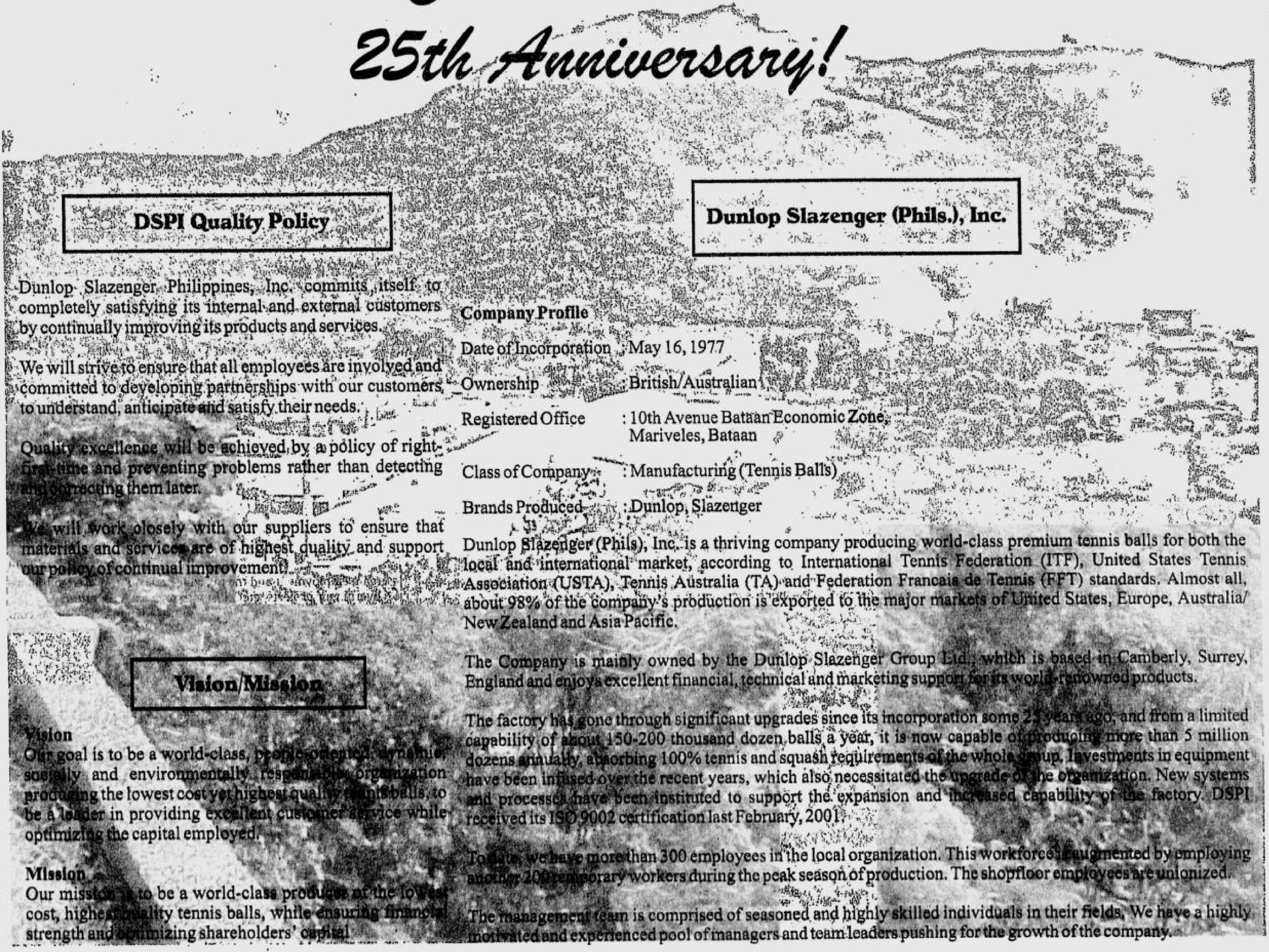

DSPI Quality Policy

Dunlop Slazenger Philippines, Inc. commits itself to completely satisfying its internal and external customers by continually improving its products and services.

We will strive to ensure that all employees are involved and committed to developing partnerships with our customers, to understand, anticipate and satisfy their needs.

Quality excellence will be achieved by a policy of right-first-time and preventing problems rather than detecting and correcting them later.

We will work closely with our suppliers to ensure that materials and services are of highest quality and support our policy of continual improvement.

Vision/Mission

Vision
Our goal is to be a world-class, people-oriented, dynamic, socially and environmentally responsible organization producing the lowest cost yet highest quality tennis balls, to be a leader in providing excellent customer service while optimizing the capital employed.

Mission
Our mission is to be a world-class producer of the lowest cost, highest quality tennis balls, while ensuring financial strength and optimizing shareholders' capital

- Produce most cost-effective tennis balls within the group..
- Ensure superior product quality. Maximize/optimize internal operating efficiency by ensuring we have a world-class workforce. Eliminate unnecessary work processes and practices.
- Provide excellent customer service through consistent on-time delivery of the required product mix and sustain responsiveness to the customers' changing requirements via an effective supply chain management process.
- Develop a people-oriented and dynamic organization. Commit to a continuing program on human resource development while maintaining social responsibility through active participation in community-based activities.
- Comply with local health, safety and environmental requirements, and achieve steady improvements toward world-class standards.

Dunlop Slazenger (Phils.), Inc.

Company Profile

Date of Incorporation	: May 16, 1977
Ownership	: British/Australian
Registered Office	: 10th Avenue Bataan Economic Zone, Mariveles, Bataan
Class of Company	: Manufacturing (Tennis Balls)
Brands Produced	: Dunlop, Slazenger

Dunlop Slazenger (Phils), Inc. is a thriving company producing world-class premium tennis balls for both the local and international market, according to International Tennis Federation (ITF), United States Tennis Association (USTA), Tennis Australia (TA) and Federation Francais de Tennis (FFT) standards. Almost all, about 98% of the company's production is exported to the major markets of United States, Europe, Australia/New Zealand and Asia Pacific.

The Company is mainly owned by the Dunlop Slazenger Group Ltd., which is based in Camberly, Surrey, England and enjoys excellent financial, technical and marketing support for its world-renowned products.

The factory has gone through significant upgrades since its incorporation some 25 years ago, and from a limited capability of about 150-200 thousand dozen balls a year, it is now capable of producing more than 5 million dozens annually, absorbing 100% tennis and squash requirements of the whole group. Investments in equipment have been infused over the recent years, which also necessitated the upgrade of the organization. New systems and processes have been instituted to support the expansion and increased capability of the factory. DSPI received its ISO 9002 certification last February, 2001.

To date, we have more than 300 employees in the local organization. This workforce is augmented by employing another 200 temporary workers during the peak season of production. The shopfloor employees are unionized.

The management team is comprised of seasoned and highly skilled individuals in their fields. We have a highly motivated and experienced pool of managers and team leaders pushing for the growth of the company.

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WHEN IS THE START & WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE PROMO?
- Promo starts on July 01, 2002 and ends at the close of banking hours on December 31, 2002.

WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF COVERAGE OF THE PROMO?
- Promo is valid in all areas nationwide, served by 103 branches of PSBank.

WHO MAY JOIN?
- Any resident of the Philippines of legal age who deposits a minimum of P10,000.00 or U.S.$500.00 on the 1st of the month and does not withdraw that particular deposit within a 30-day cycle; or maintains an average daily balance (ADB) of P10,000.00 for Peso accounts or U.S. $500.00 for U.S. Dollar accounts within a 30-day cycle.
- Existing PSBank depositors (individual and corporate account holders of active, regular ATM and Passbook Savings, Fixed Interest Checking, Regular Checking, and FCDU Savings) who maintain an average daily balance (ADB) of P10,000.00 for Peso accounts or U.S.$500.00 for U.S. Dollar accounts within a 30-day cycle (within the prescribed promo period) are eligible to participate in the raffle promo.

HOW DO I GET A RAFFLE NUMBER?
- Depositors with a minimum deposit of P10,000.00 or U.S.$500.00 on the 1st of the month maintained within a 30-day cycle will be automatically assigned a system-generated raffle number.
- You may also open an account or deposit any day within the month, provided you maintain the minimum required ADB by the end of the prescribed cycle.
- Every ADB of P10,000.00 or U.S.$500.00 entitles a depositor to a raffle number.
- Raffle numbers are electronically generated by the bank's computer system and assigned per account. This is witnessed by a PSBank Senior Officer and a DTI representative.
- The list of qualified depositors with their corresponding raffle number/s for the month will be available for inquiry from the Branch heads and will be posted in all PSBank branches nationwide.
- A depositor may secure his/her raffle number/s from his/her branch on the first week after each 30-day cycle.
- Even if a depositor decides not to secure his/her raffle number from his/her branch, a raffle number will automatically be assigned to his/her account if the aforesaid account meets the minimum ADB pre-requisite of P10,000.00 and/or U.S.$500.00 within a 30-day cycle.

HOW MANY RAFFLE NUMBERS WILL I GET?
- For Peso accounts, one raffle number will be issued per ADB increments of P10,000.00. The higher your ADB (e.g. P20,000.00 gets 2 raffle numbers; P30,000.00 gets 3 raffle numbers and so on), the more raffle numbers you get, the more chances of winning.
- For U.S. Dollar accounts, your minimum ADB of U.S.$500.00 qualifies you to two (2) raffle numbers. For every U.S.$250.00 increment you get one (1) additional raffle number.
- All raffle numbers will be electronically-generated at the end of a 30-day cycle, in the presence of a senior officer of PSBank and a DTI representative at the PSBank Center, Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City.

ARE AGGREGATE ACCOUNTS INCLUDED?
- Aggregating accounts (or a combination of accounts) are automatically disqualified from the raffle. Your account/s (Savings or Checking) must separately have a minimum ADB of P10,000.00 and/or U.S.$500.00 to qualify.

HOW WILL THE RAFFLE DRAW BE CONDUCTED?
- The selection of winners will be electronically-generated within the first week of each month at the close of banking hours (between 5:00-6:00 p.m.) in the presence of a PSBank senior officer and a DTI representative at the PSBank Center, Paseo de Roxas Ave., Makati City.
- The system shall refresh the raffle database after each draw. Non-winning raffle numbers are voided after each raffle draw.
- A new set of raffle numbers will be assigned to qualified depositors and or accounts for the next draw provided the minimum ADB is met. This also means that depositors will have up to 6 chances of winning.

WHAT ARE THE PRIZES TO BE WON?
- All prizes are tax free.

Draw Date	Cash Prizes
August 09	1 winner of P1,000,000.00 Consolation Prizes: 10 winners of P10,000.00 each 100 winners of P1,000.00 each
September 06	1 winner of P1,000,000.00 Consolation Prizes: 10 winners of P10,000.00 each 100 winners of P1,000.00 each
October 11	1 winner of P1,000,000.00 Consolation Prizes: 10 winners of P10,000.00 each 100 winners of P1,000.00 each

Draw Date	Cash Prizes
November 08	1 winner of P1,000,000.00 Consolation Prizes: 10 winners of P10,000.00 each 100 winners of P1,000.00 each
December 06	1 winner of P1,000,000.00 Consolation Prizes: 10 winners of P10,000.00 each 100 winners of P1,000.00 each
Grand Raffle Draw January 10, 2003	Grand Prize: 1 winner of P3,000,000.00 Consolation Prizes: 1 winner of P100,000.00 2 winners of P50,000.00 each

HOW DO I CLAIM THE CASH PRIZE/S?
- All cash prizes shall be automatically credited to the winner's PSBank savings or checking account.
- Winners will be asked to sign an acknowledgment form for receipt of the cash prize in the presence of the PSBank Branch Head where the account was opened and where the prize money was likewise credited.

WHEN IS THE GRAND DRAW?
- The Grand Draw shall be conducted electronically, at the close of banking hours on January 10, 2003 (between 5:00– 6:00 p.m.) in the presence of PSBank senior officers and a representative of DTI at the PSBank Center, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

HOW WILL I KNOW I WON?
- A winners list shall be posted in all PSBank branches and published in a leading daily newspaper.
- All winners will be notified through registered mail, fax, email and telephone.

WHO ARE DISQUALIFIED FROM JOINING THE PROMO?
- Employees of PSBank, Metrobank and its affiliates and subsidiaries, the advertising agency, and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the promotion.

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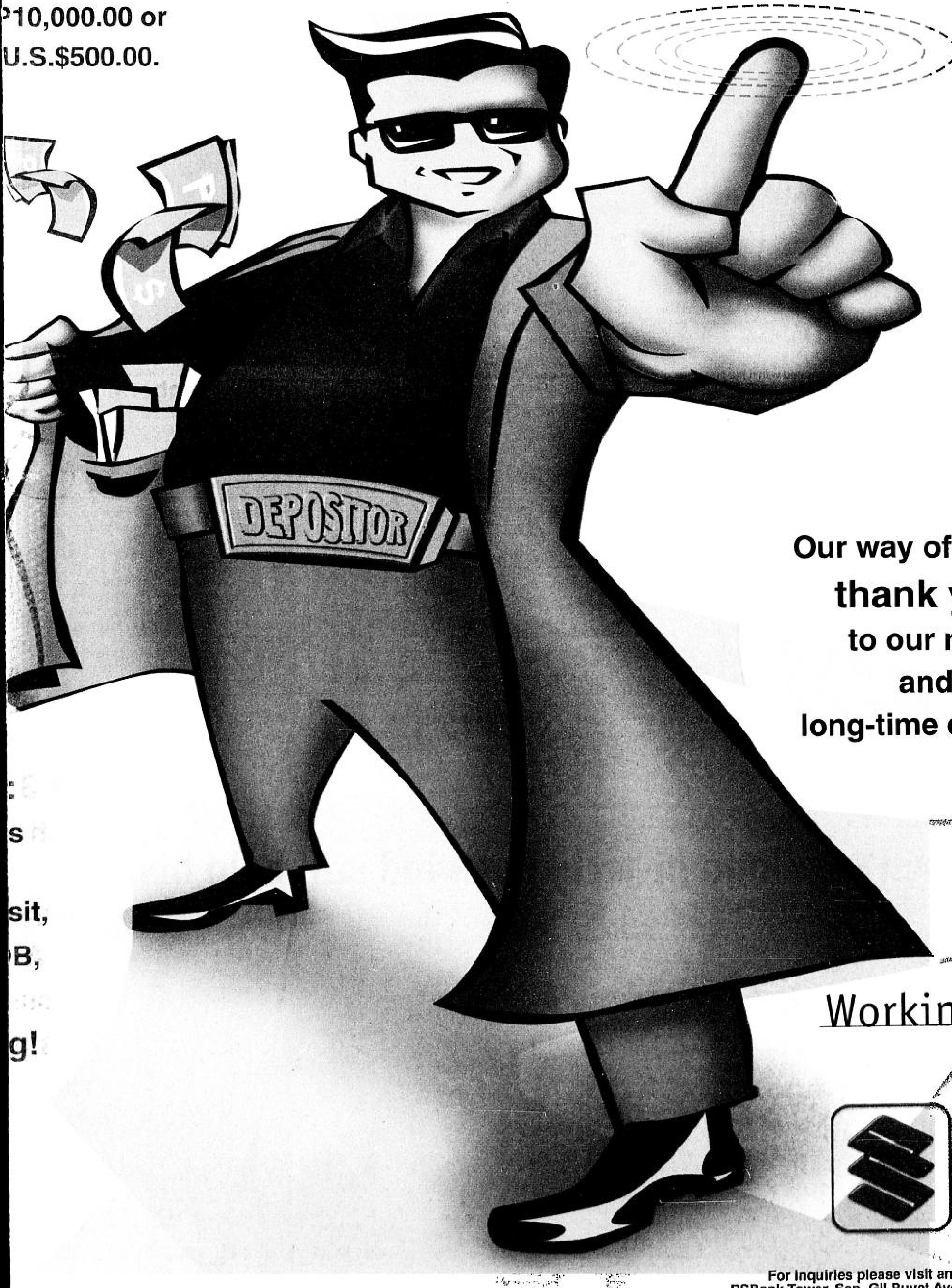

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Swiss radar faulted before collision

UEBERLINGEN, Germany—Swiss air traffic control faced further questions on Thursday after officials revealed its radar had failed to meet European standards, just a week before a mid-air collision killed 71 people.

The head of the Swiss Federal Bureau for Aircraft Accident Investigations, Jean Overney, said a report a week ago into the radar's shortcomings was severe enough for improvements to be ordered to bring it into line with standards set by Eurocontrol, the European agency in charge of tracking aircraft in flight.

The revelation on Swiss Television late on Wednesday may add to pressure after it emerged a collision warning system at Zurich was switched off and a controller was taking a break when a Russian charter carrying dozens of children collided with a DHL cargo jet over southern Germany late on Monday night.

Russian officials have already expressed anger at initial suggestions that the pilot of the Tupolev 154 may have been to blame. His employers, Bashkirian Airlines, have accused the Swiss of causing the crash over the German-Swiss border. The pilot had only 50 seconds warning of the approaching Boeing 757.

Some 140 grieving Russian relatives were expected in the resort town of Ueberlingen on the shore of Lake Constance on Thursday. Some may help identify bodies, including those of 52 children and teenagers who were going on holiday to Spain.

Swiss investigator Overney told Swiss Television the radar problems "were severe enough that we told them to improve it so that the reduced vertical separation minimums that have been introduced can be (implemented) with sufficient safety."

New rules that took effect in Europe this year reduced the vertical distance that aircrafts must maintain from each other to 300 meters from 6,000.

Overney said the report's findings were not contested by Skyguide, the Swiss air traffic control agency.

He did not specify which parts of the Swiss radar fell below Eurocontrol standards but a Swiss Television report said the location of aircraft on Swiss controllers' screens updated every 12 seconds instead of the recommended eight.

Carlo Bernasconi, head of operations for Skyguide, said the report's recommendations had no bearing on Monday's crash—with the possible exception of the screen update standard. An eight-second delay might have allowed the controller to warn the Russian jet to veer up to four seconds sooner, he told Swiss TV.

Skyguide officials acknowledge the 50-second warning was cutting it close but insist it was within acceptable limits. They also say it took 25 seconds for the Russian pilot to react.

Both jets were diving in a vain attempt to avoid one another when they crashed in mid-air and exploded. *Reuters*

Bush fudges on tardy SEC filings

WASHINGTON—The White House on Wednesday blamed a "mix-up" by company lawyers for President George W. Bush's failure to comply with stock sale disclosure rules more than a decade ago, brushing aside criticism that Bush has not lived up to the standards he set for corporate executives in response to recent accounting scandals.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the president did nothing wrong in the late 1980s and early 1990s while he served as a director of Texas-based Harken Energy Corp., where according to an internal Securities and Exchange Commission memorandum Bush was up to 34 weeks late in reporting stock sales worth more than $1 million.

Fleischer said the SEC looked into the matter and concluded "this is not anything that's actionable." According to SEC documents released by the White House, the commission investigated Bush in 1991 and concluded: "It appears that Bush did not engage in illegal insider trading." Bush's father was president of the United States at the time.

A spokeswoman for Harken Energy refused to comment.

Fleischer played down any conflict between Bush's belated disclosure of the transactions at Harken and the rules he recently proposed as president requiring top executives to promptly disclose when they buy or sell company stock. *Reuters*

Hacker swipes $35,000 from S'pore bank

SINGAPORE—A Chinese national hacked into 21 online accounts at Singapore bank DBS, transferred 62,000 Singapore dollars ($35,000) into his own account, withdrew the money at a bank branch and then fled the country.

The whole operation took less than two hours, the bank said Thursday, confirming that its own computer system had not been breached and there was no indication any bank staff was involved.

Amounts ranging from 200 dollars up to the bank's maximum transfer limit of 4,999 dollars were siphoned out of the accounts on June 19 before the hacker fled across the causeway to neighboring Malaysia.

It is the first known hacking theft of DBS accounts since it introduced Internet banking in 1996.

The theft has been linked to a 30-year-old Chinese man resident in Singapore, and bank security staff believe he may have used a Trojan Horse program to capture user keystrokes to learn identification codes and passwords.

In an attempt to quell concerns among the 370,000 DBS customers with online accounts, the bank said the illegal access "was via the customers' PCs" and its own Internet security system had not been compromised.

"The suspect apparently obtained confidential information, such as Personal Identification Numbers (PINs) and user IDs, from their PCs," the head of personal banking at DBS, Elsie Foh, said in a letter to the Straits Times.

"It was, and is, our intention to reassure customers that the bank's systems, as well as its Internet kiosks, are safe and secure." *AFP*

PAKISTANI gang-rape victim Mukhtaran Bibi (left) covers her face as she sits with her father Ghulam Farid Gujjar at their house in Meerwala village in central Punjab province July 3. A panchayat, or tribal jury, ordered four men, including one of the jurists, to rape Mukhtaran, an 18-year-old girl on June 22 as "punishment" for her brother's "illicit" affairs with a woman from a tribal of higher social standing. AFP

Rape victim describes tribal punishment

By Khalid Tanveer

MEERWALA, Pakistan—For two nervous hours, the teenager worried for her 11-year-old brother as their father pleaded before a Pakistani tribal council that the boy had done no wrong in walking unchaperoned with a girl from a different tribe.

The council was unconvinced, and ordered a brutal punishment: The boy's sister would be gang-raped to shame her whole family.

Shortly afterward, four members of the council took turns raping the 18-year-old sister in a mud hut as hundreds of people stood outside laughing and cheering.

"I touched their feet. I wept. I cried. I said I taught the holy Quran to children in the village, therefore don't punish me for a crime which was not committed by me. But they tore my clothes and raped me one by one," the young woman told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

As she spoke, her mother Allah Bachai sat beside her at their home in Meerwala village in southern Punjab province, wailing.

Senior police and provincial government officials visited Meerwala on Wednesday.

Asef Hayyat, Punjab's deputy inspector general of police, said the top officer at the local police station had been suspended and several close relatives of the suspects were detained to pressure the perpetrators into surrendering.

"We will soon arrest the real culprits," Hayyat told reporters.

Pakistan has a tradition of tribal justice in which crimes or affronts to dignity are punished outside the framework of Pakistani law. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan has demanded an end to punishments by tribal councils.

The June 22 rape has outraged rights groups, who say the number of atrocities against women in Pakistan is increasing. And Pakistan's Supreme Court on Wednesday directed top Punjab police and government officials to attend a special hearing Friday on the case.

Cited by Pakistan's government-run news agency, Chief Justice Sheikh Riaz Ahmad described the case as a violation of human rights.

Rana Ijaz, the Punjab government's law minister, was among officials who visited the village, and promised a full investigation and assistance to the victim's family.

"This is a very sad and shocking incident," Ijaz told reporters.

Villagers told him the rape was the second in the region recently. A week earlier, a girl in a nearby village committed suicide after being raped by two tribesmen, villagers said. Local police said Wednesday two men had been arrested in that case.

In the June 22 rape, the Mastoi tribe demanded punishment after the teenager's brother was seen walking unchaperoned with a Mastoi girl in a deserted part of the village. The brother and sister are from the Gujar tribe, which is considered to be lower class. *AP*

UN Council keeps alive Bosnia mission

UNITED NATIONS—The UN Security Council on Wednesday kept alive a UN police training mission in Bosnia after Washington backed away from a threat to close it down unless the council shielded US peacekeepers from the new global war crimes court.

Facing a midnight deadline for the mission's renewal, the United States joined the 14 other council members in extending its mandate through July 15.

Washington had earlier threatened a veto if its peacekeepers were not granted blanket immunity from the International Criminal Court, which came into force this week in The Hague, Netherlands.

"No one has really slammed the door shut on our proposals, and it was on that basis that we came to the conclusion that we should allow the opportunity for these discussions to continue next week," US Ambassador John Negroponte said following the unanimous council vote to extend the Bosnia mission.

Washington agreed to defer its campaign after UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned US Secretary of State Colin Powell that "the whole system of United Nations peacekeeping is being put at risk" over what he said were exaggerated US fears of vulnerability to the court.

Many world leaders had also angrily accused Washington of abandoning the people of Bosnia after playing a central role in ending the Balkan state's bloody three-year war that gave rise to the term "ethnic cleansing."

And European Union states and others had attacked the United States for trying to undermine the court, created to pursue the most heinous wrongdoing around the world including genocide and war crimes.

"We think the ICC is the most important advance in international rule of law since the establishment of the UN and we are not going to allow anyone to water down our commitment to the principle," European Commissioner Chris Patten had said in Belgrade earlier on Wednesday.

In an unusually blunt letter to Powell obtained by Reuters, Annan said that to his knowledge, no peacekeeper in UN history has "been anywhere near the kind of crimes that fall under the jurisdiction of the ICC."

"The issue that the United States is raising in the council is therefore highly improbable with respect to the United Nations peacekeeping operations," said Annan, who was in Vienna on Wednesday.

Negroponte acknowledged that while the US effort had been "an uphill fight," it was not yet over. *Reuters*

Fossett's balloon hi-tech, but wind still held his fate

SYDNEY, Australia—Steve Fossett's "Spirit of Freedom" balloon in which he solo circumnavigated the globe would have been in the realms of science fiction when the first balloonists lifted off in the late 1700s.

But the physics of ballooning remains unchanged and the pilot's fate still depends on the wind—which is why Fossett, despite all his money, took six attempts to fly around the earth.

French brothers Jacques Etienne and Joseph Montgolfer launched their first balloon, made of cloth, lined with paper and filled with smoke on June 4, 1783 in Annonay, France.

A few months later they launched a balloon carrying a duck, a rooster and a sheep—all returned to the ground safely.

On November 21, 1783 another Frenchman, scientist Jean Francois Pilatre de Rozier, became the first man to fly in a balloon, fuelled by hydrogen and an open flame, when he left the ground for 20 minutes.

Now, 219 years later, the modern adventurer flies a hi-tech, computer-controlled, multi-million-dollar balloon.

Fossett's "Spirit of Freedom" has a silver envelope 42 meters tall and 18 meters wide.

The envelope contains 550,000 cubic feet of helium and 100,000 cubic feet of hot air. But the balloon has no engine and is powered by the wind.

Forty tanks of fuel, a mixture of propane and ethane, hang from the outside of the capsule. The fuel is burned to heat the helium and cause it to rise.

On this record-breaking flight, which took 14 days and 20 hours, Fossett took enough fuel to fire his burners and heaters for 27 days.

The American steered his giant balloon around the world from Australia by ascending and descending to catch different winds as he drifted east, circling the southern hemisphere.

An onboard autopilot computer kept the balloon at a constant altitude for much of the flight by controlling the burners, enabling Fossett to sleep.

Fossett averaged four hours sleep each day in short naps of less than 45 minutes, a similar strategy used by sailors who circumnavigate the globe.

Fossett's gondola was about the size of a closet, fitted out with a bench, a sleeping bag—and a bucket and bottle to use as a makeshift lavatory. The gondola was made of a lightweight composite of kevlar and carbon, with a plastic bubble hatch on top.

A pair of heaters kept the temperature inside between 40 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit (four to 21 Celsius). Outside, the temperature, some five to six miles above sea level, plunged to well below freezing. *Reuters*

US PILOT Steve Fossett's "Spirit of Freedom" balloon lies on the ground shortly after touching down in the Australian outback northeast of Birdsville, July 4, after it successfully completed the first solo circumnavigation of the world by balloon. The 58-year-old Chicago tycoon made aviation history when on July 2 he crossed longitude 117 degrees east—the line in western Australia that on June 19 was the starting point of his ambitious journey. AFP

‘It was like an abbatoir’

Afghans recount US warplanes’ errant raid

By Denise Duclaux and JoAnne Allen

BAGRAM, Afghanistan/WASHINGTON—Afghan survivors of an attack on a wedding party apparently launched by US warplanes described it as a bloody shambles on Wednesday but the Pentagon said its investigators had yet to find bodies or graves.

“I saw bodies flying like straws,” said Haleema, an old woman brought to a hospital in Kandahar. “I had to jump over six bodies to escape.”

US military investigators arrived in the remote village of Deh Rawud in central Afghanistan to determine what had happened. Accompanied by two Afghan government ministers, several tribal elders and an embassy staffer, they spent two hours at the site.

The Pentagon said it had received “a very preliminary” initial report from the investigators.

“They saw some evidence of damage, but there was no determination of what caused the damage,” Pentagon spokeswoman Victoria Clarke said. “They did see some blood . . . they did not see any bodies or any graves.”

The US investigators were expected to visit additional sites and talk to more people for at least another day, Clarke said.

Anger over the incident grew among Afghans, a factor which could complicate the task of the US military as it tracks down al Qaida and Taliban fugitives hiding in the countryside.

A US official said the United States planned to provide aid to the village. “We want to provide humanitarian support for the people of the area” whether or not the US was to blame, the official said.

He did not specify what form the assistance might take but noted that the region was among the poorest in a poor country. “It’s not linked to the attack as such. It’s observing the . . . tragedy and responding to it by way of condolences and sympathy and with assistance as well.”

The Afghan government says wedding guests near the village were firing into the air—a tradition at Pashtun weddings—when they were mistakenly bombed by US forces.

Scenes of horror

Locals said they had buried at least 30 people after the attack, but feared many more were still lying under the rubble.

“A piece of iron sliced the woman’s neck in front of me,” said Naseema, a 15-year-old girl, told Reuters in hospital in the city of Kandahar where she had been brought for treatment. “In a split second her head was not on her body.”

Another woman, who declined to give her name, said: “It was like an abattoir. There was blood everywhere. There was smoke and dirt all around, and people were running helter-skelter. It was a doomsday scene.”

The bride and groom were thought to have died in the raid, but the groom showed up Wednesday to meet the US investigators, according to a pool report filed by US forces magazine Stars and Stripes.

The groom, identified as Malick, told a reporter that he and his fiancé were due to be married the following day, and they had been in a different village when the planes struck.

He said he came back to find 25 members of his family dead, including his father and several brothers and sisters.

According to the Stars and Stripes report, the US investigators appeared to be skeptical, making remarks like “There should be more blood” and “Where are the bodies?” They were shown parts of a skull and an ear.

Villagers said they had buried the bodies—Muslims traditionally bury their dead as quickly as possible.

They took investigators to a building with a large hole in the roof that had suffered a direct hit. Inside, blood stains and a small pair of children’s sandals was visible.

Col. Kass Saleh, the head of the American investigative team, scraped blood samples into bottles and took away shell-casings which villagers said came from the planes.

The US military has not accepted blame for what could be the worst “friendly fire” incident of its campaign in Afghanistan. It occurred during a search for fugitive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Threatened

At Bagram, Col. Roger King said a US ground patrol had called in air support after feeling threatened by automatic weapons fire.

The planes, he said, met sustained, hostile fire from several locations around the village, including anti-aircraft fire that was not consistent with a wedding party.

“The easiest and best way to avoid civilian casualties is to avoid firing at coalition forces in the proximity of innocent civilians,” King told reporters Wednesday.

In Washington, Marine Corps Gen. Peter Pace said an AC-130 gunship attacked what the crew thought was anti-aircraft fire from the ground. The gunship, which rakes targets with 105mm cannon and machine-guns, had then attacked seven targets.

There was also a pre-planned US attack in the area that night, with B-52 bombers dropping seven 2,000-lb bombs on a cave and tunnel complex as well as on a nearby anti-aircraft position, which had fired on coalition planes in the past.

One of those bombs went astray but ground spotters reported it fell on an uninhabited hillside. ***Reuters***

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Western sections of Luzon and Visayas.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 20°	Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 26°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 26°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Calapan	Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains	Hi 28°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Rains	Hi 28°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/05/02

ARMM governor says OIC still recognizes MNLF

COTABATO CITY—The Moro National Liberation Front and not the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is the one recognized by the Organization of the Ismalic Conference as the official representative of Muslims in the Philippines.

ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin made the clarification after hearing of news reports, quoting government sources, that the OIC has now recognized ARMM as the voice of Muslim Filipinos in the Islamic world.

"Still, the MNLF is the one recognized by the OIC as the sole legitimate representative of the Bangsamoro people," Hussin said.

But Hussin said the recognition is no longer under the leadership of Nur Misuari but under the MNLF Executive Council of 15, which he leads.

The MNLF, he explains, is authorized to sit as an observer in any OIC gathering. The ARMM and the Philippine government have yet to obtain that observer status to be able to participate in the discussion.

Eid Kabalu, spokesperson of the Moro Islamic Liberation, whose group sent a delegation to the OIC meeting in Khartoum, Sundan last week also criticized media reports that said ARMM had been granted observer status by the OIC.

Kabalu said the news reports, quoting Malacañang officials like Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Eduardo Ermita, were misleading.

He said what the OIC gave cognizance to was the MNLF and the MILF's participation, "acknowledging the joint delegation of the MILF and the 15-man Executive Council of the MNLF."

Even President Macapagal-Arroyo has been misled when he joyfully announced on Tuesday before a multi-sectoral group gathered at the Cotabato City Institute here that "the OIC has now recognized ARMM as the official representative of the Muslim Filipinos."

Hussin explained that what has been recognized by the OIC was the Philippine government's implementation of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement with the MNLF and his election as ARMM governor.

"It was specifically mentioned (in the resolution)—my election as governor of ARMM was seriously taken cognizance by the OIC as part of the implementation of the peace agreement," Hussin said.

Asked why was the presence of the MILF acknowledged by the OIC in the Sudan meeting, Hussin said it was an understanding to take back the breakaway group into the mainstream.

He said a "final unity agreement" between the MNLF and the MILF had been inked in Kuala Lumpur in August. *Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

CHR debunks rights groups on reb claims of 'salvaging'

TAGBILARAN CITY—A fact-finding team from the Commission on Human Rights investigating the May 9 clash in Barangay Candasig, Balilihan town considered the gunfight a real encounter and not a strafing incident as claimed by cause-oriented groups.

The report submitted by special investigators Rito Montes Jr. and Alfonso Bayocot Jr. noted that Sgt. Jose Babano got hit in the left leg, bolstering the claim that the military only acted in self-defense and in retaliation after he got hit in the first volley of fire.

But the same CHR report admitted that based on its ocular inspection of the encounter site, they found "little evidence to indicate fierce and intense fighting."

It noted that the coconut trees and plants surrounding the house of Cecila Tambis, where the rebels were staying when the troops arrived, "bore no sign of bullet marks coming from the rebel group."

Also, the CHR report said that four of the eight captured rebels were found negative of gunpowder and nitrates in the paraffin tests conducted on them.

The military however disputed this saying the other four suspects who were brought to Cebu City for proper custody were not subjected to paraffin tests.

Thus, the CHR team admitted, "it was difficult to determine who among the rebels actually fired."

While human rights groups insisted that the soldiers fired without warning, Lt. Dennis Cuaresma, who led the Army team, said he instructed Babano to shout to the rebels that they had been surrounded. Babano however was fired upon and hit, prompting the soldiers to return fire, Cuaresma had said. *Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Benguet mulls case against San Roque

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Provincial officials are mulling over the filing of an injunction case before the court to stop the construction of the controversial San Roque Dam in San Manuel, Pangasinan.

The move aims to settle all legal and social issues connected with the flagship project, including the question as to whether the endorsement of the provincial board is necessary.

This developed as Gov. Raul Molintas said he has personally asked President Macapagal-Arroyo during her recent visit to Baguio City to name Presidential Management Staff chief Silvestre Afable to be Malacañang's representative in negotiating with local officials.

The idea of a suit, called "action for declaratory relief," came when officials here got peeved with the way Renato Diaz, presidential assistant for Northern Luzon, sought the provincial board's endorsement for the multibillion-peso project.

The officials accused Diaz of "double talk" for allegedly asking the board's endorsement while at the same time seeking an opinion from the Department of Interior and Local Government on the legal necessity of the board's approval. *Delmar Carino, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Militants charged with rebellion

DAVAO CITY— Army officers, members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit and rebel returnees, have filed rebellion charges against New People's Army leader Leonardo Pitao alias Ka Parago and militant leaders Joel Virador and Alvin Luque.

The military officers and the Cafgu members accused Parago, Virador, Luque, a certain Boy Gok-ong, Ruben Fernandez alias Giovanni, Manuel Ramos alias Ka Pipoy and 17 persons who were named only by their aliases and believed to be NPA members, of rebellion and insurrection.

Also charged with violation of Article 134 of the Revised Penal Code for rebellion and insurrection were alias Ka Dodoy, Paulo, Samuel, Banban, Jordan, Ronnie, Larry, Pokpok, Junel, Abay, Rodie, Kwen, Lilay, Chikoy, Park, Betty and Samuel, whose addresses are still not known.

The respondents were accused of being NPA members and responsible for the burning of the Rural Transit Bus after the owner reportedly only gave a little amount of money as revolutionary tax in Barangay Ladi-an in Marilog District here.

They were also accused of allegedly robbing Anna's Farm and the Department of Agriculture in Marilog District.

The accusers were Capt. Ramon Torres of the 73rd Infantry Battalion, Tamano Culot, Efren Duyan, Leonardo Tampus, Daniel Mayagma, Loreto Palma, all of the 73rd IB, and Felix Rosalita of Sitio Siao of Tamugan and Jun Pili of Quirorom, Suawan of Marilog District.

Virador, secretary general of Karapatan and spokesperson of Bayan Muna, said the charges were just political harassment, which were meant to cover up the violations committed by the Army.

Virador said Del Rosario still thinks the Army is above men and above the law. He added that the filing of charges is purposely to silence them from exposing the violations and abuses of the military.

In Malolos, Bulacan armed men burned a police patrol car at a fish port on Thursday, a day after a group of New People's Army rebels killed four Scout Rangers in a clash in Paombong town, police said.

Police said another patrol car was damaged. The two vehicles belonged to the 305th provincial mobile group command under Supt. Fernando Villanueva.

SPO1 Isagani Ocampo, one of Villanueva's men who was guarding the two cars, survived after he pleaded for his life.

He was resting in one of the vehicles when men armed with M-16 rifles and short firearms grabbed his .45 caliber pistol and dragged him out of the car.

He said the armed men later threw a hand grenade at the car.

Police said they believed the armed men belonged to the NPA group that clashed with Scout Rangers in Paombong. Four soldiers were killed and two others were wounded in he clash.

Joint forces of the police and the 34th Riverine command of the Army based in Hagonoy town are now pursuing the NPA rebels.

The slain Scout Rangers were TSgt. Nixon Sargado, 38, of South Cotabato; Cpls. Edwin Cabucana, 28, of Isabela; Herbert JayLord Antolin, 28, of Ilocos Sur; and Carlito Loquiao, 30, Pangasinan. Their bodies were taken to Fort Bonifacio. *Ayan C. Mellejor and Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Carmela Reyes with a report from Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Villamor Visaya Jr.

THREATENED CREATURES

Three boys play with a sea turtle that strayed into a populated area in Sta. Ana, Cagayan. Concerned invididuals brought the turtle, considered an endangered species, back to the sea.

BARANGAY, SK ELECTIONS

Abra, Kalinga declared poll 'hot spots'

BAGUIO CITY—Police have placed Abra and Kalinga under their list of "critical areas of concern" for the July 15 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Armando Velasco, regional director of the Commission on Elections here, asked the Cordillera police to send more men to Abra "to tighten security from the beginning of campaign period up to the end of elections."

Campaign period officially starts on today (July 5).

Velasco said Tineg town in Abra, where New People's Army rebels have a strong presence, should be placed under the list of "critical areas of concern."

"Based on our experience, the two provinces recorded highest election offenses. Civilian insurgencies are high (so) the police should send in more men to secure the polling places," he said.

Ballot snatching and other forms of election offenses had been rampant in the area during the previous elections.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos on Tuesday had declared Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Bicol and some parts of the Cordillera as election hot spots.

Reports showed at least nine people in the Cordillera had been charged with violation of the election gun ban.

In Bulacan, police identified 37 villages in the province as "areas of immediate concern" for the July 15 barangay elections.

Most of these villages are "influenced and infiltrated" by NPA rebels, according to Senior Supt. Edgardo Acuna, Bulacan police director.

In some vilages, the NPA is fielding candidates in the barangay polls, police said.

In Isabela, Army officials said they are closely watching at least 72 villages in Northern Luzon as these are considered election hot spots due to the influence of the NPA.

"Moves by the NPA to influence the elections are expected so our Army soldiers are ready to thwart possible aggression," said Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Alvarado, 5th Infantry Division commander.

Alvarado said 68 villages were classified as "infiltrated" due to the availability of formed sectoral and liaison groups identified with NPAs.

Chief Supt. Dominador Resos Jr., Cagayan Valley regional police director, said: "We are gearing up for the elections. I am glad that during our monitoring of potential hot spots, the Army soldiers have been supporting our policemen through their own security forces."

Lawyer Erwin Valerozo, Isabela provincial election supervisor, said 2,590 filed their candidacies for barangay chair; 18,912, village councilors; 2,609, Sangguniang Kabataan chair; 8,929, SK councilors.

Military officers are also monitoring reports that some barangay candidates allied with the rebels were given with small firearms supposedly to coerce voters in their favor.

"We do not want the (NPAs) to sneak out of the military's security cordon. We will defuse any destabilization efforts by the group," Alvarado said. *Jovelyn Reyes and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

American in multiple rape reported insane

BACOLOD CITY—American Victor Pearson who is now detained here for multiple rape charges, should be committed to a sanitarium for the mentally ill, Dr. Antonio Gauzon said yesterday.

Gauzon, a Bacolod-based psychiatrist who examined Pearson on June 21, said the American is suffering from post-traumatic disorder triggered by his experiences in the Vietnam War, as a US marine.

"Pearson is paranoid and does not trust anybody... he is dangerous to himself," Gauzon said.

Gauzon said he examined Pearson on the request of the US Embassy and after permission was granted by Kabankalan Regional Trial Court Judge Henry Arles, where some of the 67 counts of rape charges filed against Pearson were being heard.

Gauzon revealed that Pearson became his patient in 1993, long before he was charged with rape. The psychiatrist said he told Pearson to return for further examination but the American did not show up.

In 1996, Gauzon said the US Embassy requested him to examine Pearson but he again did not show up.

Gauzon said Pearson only went back to his clinic on June 21 to be examined, accompanied by his jail guards.

The visit came at a time when the trial for two counts of rape filed against Pearson by a 15-year-old girl was already completed. Judge Arles was expected to render a decision soon on these cases.

The complainant was among eight young females who claimed they were repeatedly raped by the American while they were living at Pearson's house in Ilog, Negros Occidental.

Pearson had repeatedly denied the rape charges, even as on his arrest last year at his house last year, police found in his house numerous pictures and videotapes of nude young women.

Lawyer Rowena Guanzon, private prosecutor for the alleged rape victims, said the psychiatrist's findings would have no probative value to the rape cases against Pearson.

"Pearson cannot be confined in a mental institution to avoid imprisonment, as he did not enter a plea of insanity," she said. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

EVIDENCE LACK

Woman in Baguio drug bribe try released

By Jovelyn Reyes and Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Narcotics agents almost got a commendation for "incorruptibility" from the city council on Wednesday, only to be disappointed by a legal loophole.

A Baguio prosecutor freed a woman who was implicated in an alleged P200,000 bribe attempt by Manila police officers on Sunday to release a drug suspect arrested by agents from the 14th regional narcotics group (Narcgroup) here.

Assistant Prosecutor Elmer Sagsago said the Narcgroup failed to establish the guilt of Imelda Guillermo, common-law wife of suspect Marcelo de Juaiting, except by her association with Insp. Luis Chico of the Western Police District.

She was released Wednesday morning from the city jail after being detained for two days.

Chico was accused of corruption on Monday for intervening, and later offering cash in exchange for De Juaiting's release.

He was supported later by a group of 10 to 12 Manila policemen, supposedly detailed with the National Capital Region Police Office's drug enforcement unit (NCRPO-DEU).

Only Chico and Guillermo, however, were charged before the Baguio prosecutor's office.

Sagsago said his decision "does not prejudice the filing of a new bribery case against Guillermo, provided the (Narcgroup) can give me more substantive evidence against her."

But his decision did not cover Chico's charges. "I gave Chico's lawyer 10 days to answer the accusation," Sagsago said.

Chico is being investigated by the WPD general assignments unit. His NCRPO companions have not been identified, although Narcgroup sources said these men would be charged in a complaint being prepared by Sr. Supt. Orlando Mabutas, Narcgroup supervisor for Northern Luzon.

Guillermo's release preempted a commendation that was being deliberated by the city council.

Councilor Delfin Balajadia sponsored a resolution that would have cited Senior Insp. Marcos Eblahan Jr., and his team for "their heroic deed of refusing" the P200,000 bribe offer.

But two councilors debated on this resolution on the floor because of the ongoing investigations.

Guillermo's release was later disclosed during the deliberations, prompting the embarrassed councilors to defer action on the resolution.

Eblahan said he had not been advised about Guillermo's release.

In a related development, Narcgroup sources confirmed on Tuesday that De Juaiting's apparent drug supplier had been traced to a maximum-security prisoner at the National Penitentiary.

De Juaiting's testimony jived with the admission of two suspects, who were arrested by the Narcgroup here on June 19 on charges of drug possession.

"The trace led us to the same name. Both these two cases provided us the same name. We have coordinated with the Muntinlupa police office to help us follow the trail, because we are sure it will lead to more people in the (drug organization)," the source said.

Presidential adviser says 800,000 jobs created

MATI, Davao Oriental—The government is right on track in meeting its target of creating a million jobs by 2004.

Luis Lorenzo Jr., presidential adviser on jobs creation, told participants at the recent Davao Business Conference here that he is almost through with his task.

Lorenzo said that as of date the government has created 810,000 positions or only about 190,000 short of the target.

"The deadline is not over yet and we have already created 810,000 jobs," he said.

Lorenzo, whose family owns the fruit company Lapanday Holdings, said most of the jobs he created since becoming President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser a few months ago were in agriculture.

"The 400,000 jobs are in the rice sector and the balance are in other industries (such as agricultural plantations). We have seen an expansion of the banana hectarage for small farmers and that also created jobs," Lorenzo said.

Pressed for proof, he said the President would include this success in job creation in her State of the Nation address when Congress opens sessions on July 22.

The banana magnate cited his "supply chain market-driven model" in registering an 82-percent accomplishment of his mission.

In Davao City, Lorenzo said criticisms against the government for the rising incidence of poverty and unemployment would not help improve the lives of Filipinos.

"Let's roll up our sleeves and fix the problems ourselves," Lorenzo said. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Village chief says recall assembly legitimate move

THE CHAIR of the Preparatory Recall Assembly formed against Puerto Princesa Mayor Victorino Socrates said the recall move was a success and "was the collective expression of the people's desire to be given a chance to elect a new leader."

In a statement, Earl Buenviaje, chair of the recall assembly and village chief of Barangay Tiniguiban, said the recall was attended by 347 "bonafide" village officials.

"That the barangay officials succeeded in pushing through with the assembly despite Socrates camp's widespread use of harassment, intimidation and bribery, speak volumes of the people's total loss of confidence in the mayor's capability to govern," said Buenviaje.

He said the mayor should stop blaming his political opponents for the recall move."What transpired was a fight between city hall and the barangays, a fight against Goliath," he said.

The recall came amid mounting complaints from barangay officials against the administration of Socrates.

Under Socrates' rule, the officials said, the budget for the city's barangays was slashed from P1 million per village to P1,000. The budget for education was also drastically reduced.

Projects that needed counterpart funding like irrigation, provided for by the Department of Agrarian Reform, could not be implemented due to lack of funds from the mayor.

Projects of international agencies like World Bank, Unesco and USAid were also either discontinued or withdrawn.

Buenviaje said Socrates should face the recall without blaming anyone.

Puerto Princesa mayor vows to fight recall move up to Supreme Court

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Lawyers of Puerto Princesa City Mayor Dennis M. Socrates said they would avail of all legal remedies to "kill the void recall resolution, if necessary up to the Supreme Court," that was passed Tuesday morning by 346 village officials here.

This developed as Socrates declared "the preparatory recall assembly...as a sham, a moro-moro, a zarzuela, a mere rump session."

Socrates' camp noted that the assembly took place on a very significant day for Palawan residents who were observing the second anniversary of the disappearance of Socrates' father, former Gov. Salvador P. Socrates.

The missing governor was among the 15 passengers of a Philippine Air Force Nomad 86 that crashed in waters off the island of Cagayancillo, Palawan on July 2, 2000.

"What happened was a very brazen, very shameless abuse of the political process, a blatantly manipulated and 'scripted exercise guaranteed to suit the selfish political agenda of ex-Mayor Hagedorn," the mayor said.

Socrates said the PRA should be rendered null and void for lack of quorum and absence of fair play and due process.

He said there are 596 barangay officials in the city and the number needed to have the required "qualified majority" to constitute a quorum and to pass a valid resolution for the recall is 298.

"But there were only 269 barangay officials in attendance," Socrates claimed, citing the head count made by his men.

He said that right at the start, during the registration of members of the PRA, representatives of the city mayor and various media organizations were prevented by the organizers from looking at the list of attendees.

Socrates said the lawyers he designated to represent him in the assembly were also prevented from coming near the participants to determine whether those present were real barangay officials and not mere impostors.

The lawyers of Socrates said no roll call was conducted and that the number of attendees at the PRA was determined by a mere head count.

Former Vice Mayor Vicky de Guzman, however, explained that in a large gathering like the PRA, "instead of a roll call, a report of attendance can be used instead depending on the order of business."

Socrates challenged the organizers of the assembly to provide reporters a list of participants to prove that the PRA was attended by 386 barangay officials. *Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Ople accepts DFA portfolio 'in principle'

From page A1

been a national figure, our international friends are trying to come up with an image of him as the country's top diplomat," the source said. "They are also asking if there would be adjustments in the conduct of the country's foreign policy with Senator Ople at the helm."

Up until yesterday, the buzz in Malacañang was that Ople was it although a number of others had been mentioned as contenders.

These are Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Ambassador to the UK Cesar Bautista, Presidential Adviser for International Competitiveness Roberto Romulo, Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja, Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino, former Senators Francisco Tatad and Ernesto Maceda, and former Ambassador to the United States Raul Rabe.

Romulo, whom the President had tapped to head a private sector committee to look for a new foreign secretary, yesterday said he put Ople on top of what he described as "an excellent short list."

But he said he would also support the others on the list—Bautista, Rabe, Severino and former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon.

"I will support all of them," Romulo said in a message from Madrid, where he is on vacation with his wife Olivia.

'Fresh air'

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto pushed for Ople's appointment, saying he was a national asset and the "blast of fresh air" that the Department of Foreign Affairs needed.

Recto said Ople would be the best choice because he did not belong to a single party.

"It is because of his experience on foreign relations that he's being invited to serve in the Cabinet," Recto said. "Professional expertise, and not political expediency, is the basis for the recruitment."

Should Ople accept the offer, the former labor secretary would be able to minister to the needs of Filipino workers abroad, Recto said.

He dismissed speculations that Malacañang's offer to Ople was intended to cut the number of opposition members in the Senate, and pointed out that it was not the first time that an incumbent senator was offered the foreign affairs portfolio.

He cited the case of then Sen. Raul Manglapus, whom President Corazon Aquino appointed as her foreign secretary after People Power I.

"And those who claim that Blas Ople is a greenhorn when it comes to diplomacy seem to forget that he was the best president that the International Labor Organization ever had," Recto said.

'Gut feel'

House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said his "gut feel" was that Ople would accept.

Gonzalez said this was indicated not only by Ople's recent column in another newspaper indicating openness to the offer but also Dante Ang's trip to the United States.

But he noted that the President was apparently preparing for the eventuality that Ople would turn down the offer by forming a search committee to find someone for the job.

On the other hand, Deputy Minority Leader Rolex Suplico said he was confident that Ople would not jump ship.

"I know that Ka Blas gave his commitment not to abandon the party in favor of a political bribe such as the position of foreign secretary," Suplico said in a phone interview.

He said Ople was a "statesman" and would "not fall into the trap" of the administration.

In a statement that he issued, Suplico hailed Ople for rejecting the "political bribe" of the President.

"It was too amateurish and very immature of (the President) to think that she could pull a trick on a true statesman like Ka Blas," the congressman said. "The good senator is way above (her) kindergarten politics."

Romulo

This time, the touted next foreign secretary can expect wholehearted support from the man widely regarded in diplomatic circles as the "shadow DFA."

Romulo said Ople was his "mentor and supporter" during his own watch as DFA chief.

Romulo had earlier denied meddling in the DFA but admitted that he had "policy differences" with Guingona during the latter's stormy stint there.

Guingona's troubles stemmed from his opposition to the US military presence in the country.

Romulo said that while there was a "wide field" to choose from, "only the President can make the decision by using her own political assessment and value-added" considerations in naming her next foreign secretary.

"The issue is not who is qualified but who the President would prefer as her implementor of foreign policy," he said. "It is really a matter of compatibility and body chemistry."

Romulo said Bautista was his Cabinet colleague and fellow chief executive officer in the private sector, while Rabe was his classmate who was also a well-regarded ambassador to Korea and the United States.

He said Severino was his "right arm, as undersecretary and respected incumbent Asean secretary general," while Siazon was a "seasoned diplomat and foreign minister (who) continues to be a valuable asset in our crucial relations with Japan." ***With reports from Carlito Pablo, Juliet L. Javellana, Cynthia D. Balana and Christine Avendaño***

GMA foes in Left, Right feast on political mistakes

From page A1

He said even the simple act of firing a senior Cabinet official from a sensitive post had an impact on foreign investors.

Estrada was referring to former Vice President Teofisto Guingona whose resignation resulting from policy differences with the President was said to have caused the stocks to plunge to a six-month low.

Militant groups rebutted the President's claim that while she committed political mistakes she was able to keep correct economic policies.

"No one in his right mind will buy this latest rhetoric. Aside from her political blunders, her economic decisions proved to be fatal to Filipinos," said Fernando Hicap, leader of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya.

Hicap cited the President's failure to scrap the purchased power adjustment and the contracts with independent power producers, and to control increases in water rates and oil prices.

"Where in heaven's name did she get the idea that her economic policies were working in favor of the people?" Hicap asked.

Blunder

Renato Reyes Jr., spokesperson of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said the President's biggest blunder was putting the country back to its pre-1946 status as a US colony by allowing American troops to join combat operations in Mindanao.

"With the economy already a fiefdom of the US, Ms Macapagal has made the entire country a playground for US troops," Reyes said.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara reminded the President that she was running a government, not a business enterprise.

Angara said Ms Macapagal's political mistakes were killing the economy, scaring off potential investors and pushing the country backward.

The President must know the basic principle that every political blunder has a grave economic implication, according to the senator.

"It would be a great act of folly on the part of the President not to appreciate the integration of politics and economics," Angara said.

"Hearing statements from a self-described economist that her mistakes are purely political and did not affect the economy only makes it worse," he said.

Mills, Ricardo

To save the country, Angara advised the President to take a refresher course on John Stuart Mills and David Ricardo who wrote that every political act had an economic implication.

He pointed out that the sorry spectacle of the President feuding openly with Guingona had sent stock prices tumbling down.

He also blamed declining investments and business confidence on the President's weak leadership.

The Board of Investment and the Philippine Export Zone Authority reported that investments from January to May dropped 49 percent.

For his part, Senate President Franklin Drilon said the stock market slump, the political crisis in the Senate and Malacañang and the larger-than-expected budget deficit should be a signal for the President to "work double time."

He noted that while the "stock market has its peaks and lows, this is one period when we should take measures in order to shore up confidence in the economy."

The budget deficit of P107 billion for the first five months of the year was too close to the target of P130 billion for the whole year..

"(The budget deficit) is way beyond the targeted deficit and this has affected the perceptions on the Philippine economy," Drilon said.

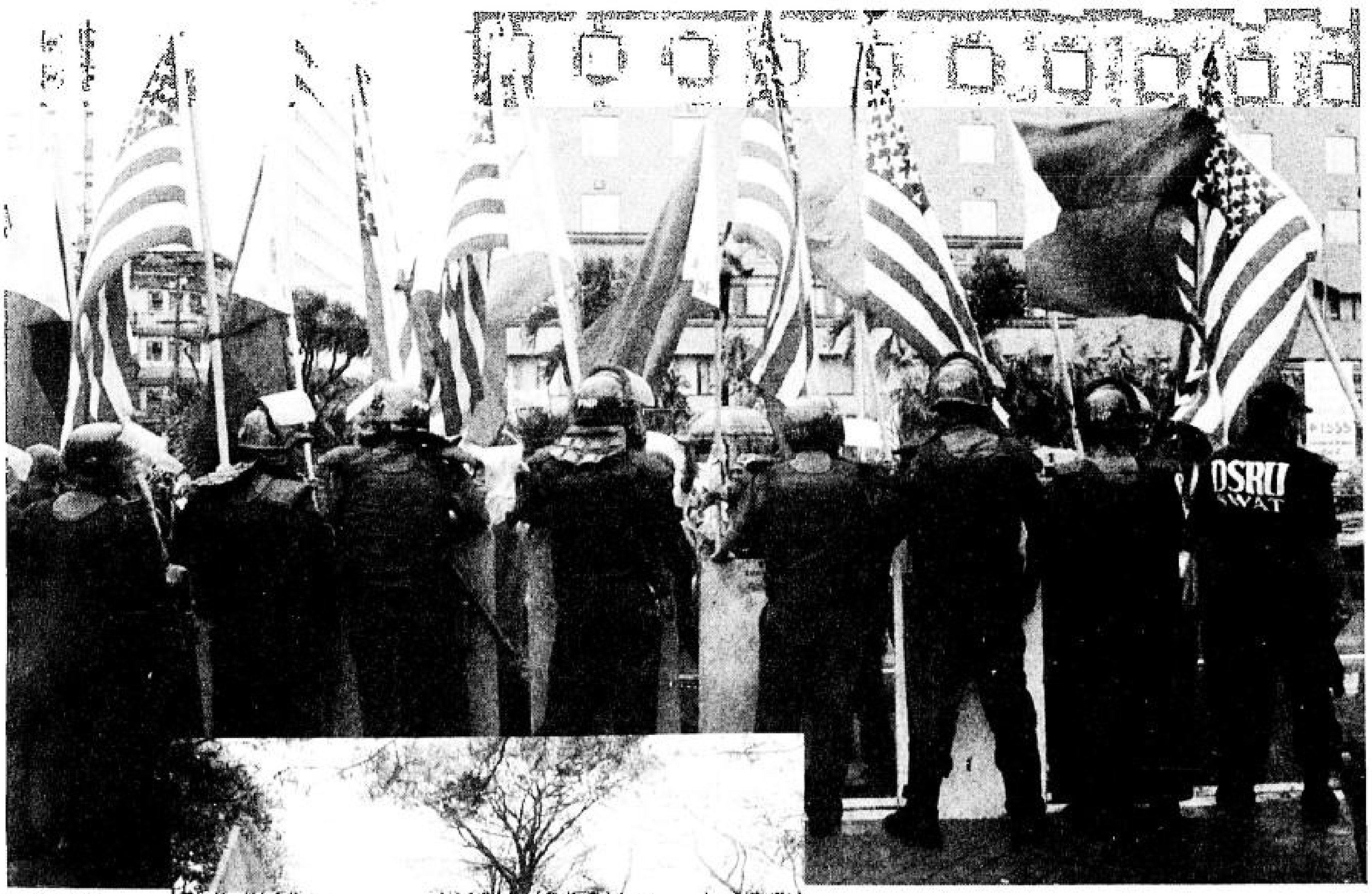
Drilon said government should now "tighten expenses and postpone non-essentials.

"For example, seminars, meetings and travels should be avoided in the meantime. There is also a need to intensify collection of taxes," Drilon said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said Ms Macapagal could be "creating more enemies than necessary" with the squabble with Guingona and the seven police officials who were relieved of their posts for failure to curb jueteng in their respective jurisdictions.

"The overall political climate is not healthy with the President battling too many fronts," Pangilinan said.

FOURTH OF JULY CHEERS, JEERS



FRIENDLY demonstrators, for a change, who are members of Discovery Crusade, march by the US Embassy on Roxas Blvd.

DENNIS SABANGAN

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

REMEMBERING the war bravely fought under two flags, a Filipino veteran still dreams of Uncle Sam's recognition and compensation.

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U.S. TROOPS PALAYASIN! -KMU-

THE OTHER side of the Fourth of July: Bayan burns the US flag and the effigy of President Macapagal.

THE US EMBASSY did not get a break from protesters even on its Independence Day. DENNIS SABANGAN

Only 1 of 3 Pinoys satisfied with RP democracy–SWS

From page A1

the presidency in January 2001 after Filipinos massed again at Edsa and police and military officers deserted his administration.

A non-commissioned poll, the SWS second quarter survey has a 95 percent confidence level and a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percent. It polled 1,200 statistically representative adults nationwide.

While they were dissatisfied with democracy, 74 percent said they were "very proud" to be Filipinos, up from 68 percent in March.

Ninety-one percent, in fact, said they would still choose to be a Filipino citizen even if given a chance to choose their nationality. Eight percent would rather be Americans.

Eighty-three percent of residents in Metro Manila preferred to be Filipino citizens, while 85 percent of those belonging to the middle and upper ABC classes wanted to remain Filipinos.

In another poll, 31 percent of the ABC class said that the country was hopeless and that they would migrate to another country if given the chance.

The survey, conducted by Pulse Asia in March and April, also found that one out of five Filipinos, or 19 percent, wanted to leave the country.

Asked about the most important holiday, the SWS survey found that 27 percent of the respondents chose Labor Day. Twenty percent named Independence Day and 15 percent voted New Year's Day.

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DENNIS SABANGAN

SIDE by side, the two flags signify Fil-American friendship.

RP population hits 80M; 32M are poor

From page A1

Filipinos lived on less than P38 a day, the poverty threshold set by the government.

Popcom Executive Director Tomas M. Osias said poverty was a condition that strips people of their dignity.

"Poverty is not only about income. It is not merely a statistical probability, but a reality that sets in with cruel consequences," he said.

On July 11, the Popcom and the United Nations Population Fund will lead the observance of World Population Day by sounding off the call "Action Against Poverty: Empower, Protect, Educate."

The two agencies are urging Filipinos to be informed, to make the right decisions, and to seek ways of planning their families to stop poverty.

Osias stressed the importance of thinking ahead and studying ways to improve one's life so the future generation could have a better life.

He said couples should learn the importance of having a family that they planned and making the environment healthy for their family.

"The country will have a chance of reducing poverty when couples attain their aspiration to have the number of children they want," he said.

"If all couples realize this, it will be a good start for a better life."

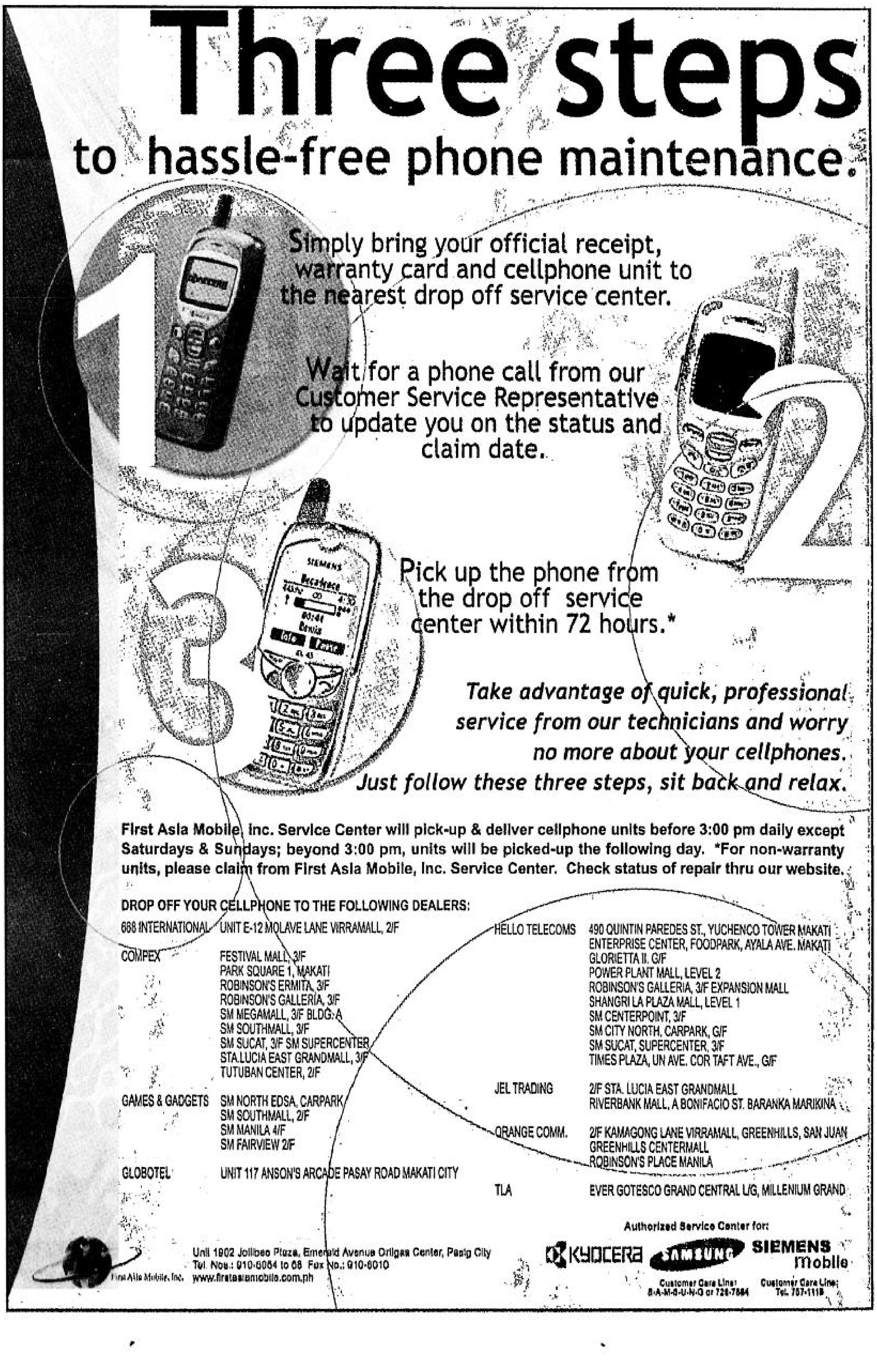
Women, in particular, can start living freely and with dignity in an improved environment while fulfilling their personal goals and their responsibilities to their families.

Osias said the government was committed to making couples become responsible parents by keeping them informed and helping them choose a family planning method they want.

Around 2 million Filipino couples have expressed in the 1998 National Demographic and Health Survey of the National Statistics Office their desire to have a family consisting of not more than three children to nurture, educate and bring up as responsible adults.

But at present, couples have an average of four children.

The harsh effects of poverty and increased population may complicate the already difficult social conditions if families cannot afford even the most basic needs, such as food. If this situation persists, there will be little or no resources at all for health, education and housing, Popcom said.



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EQUESTRIAN HOPE

Leviste reaches World Games

VETERAN equestrienne Toni Leviste made history by qualifying for the World Equestrian Games (WEG) recently at the Lons Le Saunier Show Jumping Competition in France.

Leviste scored the feat through her trusted mount Ghandy, the same mare she rode at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

The WEG, also considered the world Championship for the sport of equestrian, is held every four years.

This year, the much-anticipated event will take place in Jerez, Spain in September.

The Philippines has never been represented at the world championships.

Leviste is currently in Europe and training with Belgian coach, Jos Kumps, at the legendary Nelson Pessoa Stables in preparation for the Busan Asian Games in September.

Leviste is hoping to represent the country in both the world championships and the Asian Games, making her the only Filipino and southeast Asian rider to compete in the sport's four major events: the Asian Games (1995, 1998, 2002), World Cup Finals (1999), Olympics (2000), and World Championships (2002).

After a successful equestrian career spanning over two-decades, the 28-year-old Leviste said she plans to retire from competitive riding at the end of the year.

LEVISTE (aboard Ghandy) in action.

La Union chessers ahead

Standings after 4 rounds:
La Union 4 points; Pampanga (Matridette), Basilan, Negros Occidental, Laguna (Calamba), Bataan 'A' (Gov's Office), Bohol (San Miguel), Bulacan (San Rafael), Laguna (Gov. Lazaro), Bohol (CP Garcia), 3; Bulacan (Boc-Meyc) 2.5.

SAN Fernando, Pampanga—La Union banked on the victories by Bensar Valencia and Liolen Tubianosa to edge Basilan, 2.5-1.5, on Wednesday and grab the solo lead after four rounds of the 2002 National Inter-Provincial team Chess Championship at the Robinson's Starmills here.

Part of the credit should also go to IM Chito Garma, who held GM Eugene Torre to a draw in their top board duel, giving La Union a perfect four points in the tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

NM Rolando Nolte extracted the lone win for Basilan at the expense of IM Barlo Nadera.

Seeded third in the 34-team cast, La Union, left Basilan and seven other teams in a tie for 2nd to 10th places with three points apiece in the tournament supported by the Department of Interior and Local Government, the province of Pampanga, the Department of Tourism and Robinson's Starmills. *Roy Luarca*

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De La Salle gets UAAP drive going

THE DLSAA (De La Salle Alumni Association) will kick off the La Salle Green Archers' 2002-2003 UAAP basketball campaign with a pep dance rally at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow (Saturday, July 6) at the Via Mare, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Alumni and families are invited to an evening of camaraderie, team updates, music and dancing. Tickets costing P750 each are available at the DLSAA office (tels. 523-5648 and 526-5612) or at the entrance tomorrow. The ticket includes finger food and the first round of juice drink. The first 12 cases of beer and 24 bottles of wine will be free.

The 2002-2003 team that includes old faces and fresh recruits will be introduced with the players signing autographs for alumni and their children. Souvenirs may be brought or bought during the evening for signing. Alumni are also encouraged to bring their cameras for photo-ops.

Members of the Taft '60s high school and '70s college classes and alumni from La Salle Greenhills and other Lasallian schools are attending.

The 60s-80s band Rockin' Revival led by Lasallian Sonny Niclas will provide dance music. Route 70, another Lasallian band, will guest and render several pieces. In addition, 20 DLSU Pep Squad cheerleaders will fine tune the Alma Mater Song and Rektikano. *MAR*

2 venues host Best clinics

YOUNG basketball aspirants get the chance to improve their skills when Milo Best Center's Saturday and Sunday only classes unwrap this weekend in separate venues—Ateneo College covered courts in Quezon City and St. Benedict College in Alabang Hills.

Level 1, 2, 3, 4 and refresher classes will be conducted at Ateneo from 8 to 11 a.m. starting tomorrow, while level 1, 2 and 3 sessions will be staged from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Benedict starting on Sunday.

According to Best Center vice president for operations Monica Jorge, interested parties may contact either The BEST Center at 34 Scout Lozano, Barangay Laging Handa, QC, tel. Nos. 411-6260 and 372-3065/66 or Dansei Groom Shop/ Sensei Salon at 5th floor. Holiday Inn Manila, UN Ave. tel. No. 525-8191 for more details.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Demolition Jack 2. King Edward 3. Double Check

Race 2—1. Roppongi 2. Power Corrupts 3. Sham Sham

Race 3—1. Mighty Dragon 2. Classy Babe 3. Friendly Lover 4. La Española

Race 4—1. Bidang Bida 2. Silver Rose 3. Kay Rufina 4. Miss Anapat 5. Renowned

Race 5—1. Ikaw 2. Standout 3. Victory lap

Race 6—1. Pep Up 2. Two Thumbs Up 3. Imperial Act

Race 7—1. Best of Times 2. Napa Valley 3. Simple Doding 4. Shardp Drive 5. Impromptu

Race 8—1. Ringer Kid 2. Cheese Laffongga 3. Turbo Carera 4. Courage Heart 5. Simiong

Race 9—1. Free Entrance 2. Kingair 3. Super Dancer 4. Time is Gold 5. Give and Take 6. King of Arabia

RAINY WIMBLEDON

Mauresmo snaps Capriati run; Serena rips Daniela

WIMBLEDON, England—Jennifer Capriati looked at the big drops falling from the slate sky, eyed the chair umpire, and held up a palm as if to say, "Why are we out here?"

She went ahead and served. Double fault. Another double fault. Serve broken. Concentration cracked.

Out of sorts on a start-stop-start day of rain, her shoulder in pain, Capriati couldn't summon the resolve that helped her win three major titles in the last 1 1/2 years and lost 6-3, 6-2 to No. 9 Amelie Mauresmo in the Wimbledon quarterfinals Wednesday.

Encounter

That snaps Capriati's tour-high run of six straight Grand Slam semifinals and sends Mauresmo to a final four encounter Thursday with French Open champion Serena Williams.

The No. 2-seeded Williams had 10 aces and 20 other unreturned serves in overwhelming No. 11 Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 6-2 in another quarterfinal with no continuity thanks to rain delays.

"Ten aces?" Williams said excitedly, looking at a stat sheet. Then, in what could be construed as a warning, she added: "For me, there's always room for improvement. Always. I haven't gotten anywhere close to my potential."

Rankings

If she wins her semifinal, Williams will move up to No. 1 in the rankings for the first time, overtaking sister Venus — no matter what else happens in the tournament.

The other semifinal has Venus, the two-time defending champion, against No. 6 Justine Henin in a rematch of the 2001 final. They both won in straight sets Tuesday.

In the only other match finished Wednesday, 1996 champion Richard Krajicek completed a 6-7 (2), 7-6 (4), 6-7 (1), 7-6 (5), 6-4 victory over Mark Philippoussis to make the quarterfinals. They entered the day at two sets apiece, and Krajicek broke serve in the very first game Wednesday, just the third break of the match.

Tim Henman's quarterfinal against Andre Sa was halted because of rain after the Briton won the opening set 6-3. It will resume Thursday, when the other quarters start: No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt vs. No. 18 Sjeng Schalken, Krajicek vs. No. 27 Xavier Malisse, and No. 22 Nicolas Lapentti vs. No. 28 David Nalbandian.

If each Williams wins Thursday, they would meet in an all-in-the-family major final for the third time in 10 months.

For the first time in a while, Capriati won't stand in the way.

Her left shoulder and neck were massaged twice by a trainer during changeovers, and it hurt just to toss the ball for serves by late in the match. She thought the 55-degree weather and the interruptions might be to blame.

"I'm definitely not a 16-year-old body anymore," said Capriati, who's a decade older than that but normally is indefatigable.

She won last year's French Open final 12-10 in the third set, and erased a final-record four match points en route to capturing a second straight Australian Open in January.

Referring to the weather, she said: "Everyone's got to go through it. You just have to know that this is Wimbledon. It didn't help to be playing an opponent today that was playing the best she's played in a long, long time."

Tattoo

Mauresmo, who has a tattoo of an angel on her left shoulder, burst on the tennis scene by making the 1999 Australian Open final, but hadn't gone beyond the quarterfinals of a major since. She has played spectacularly at the All England Club, dropping just 21 games in her past four matches.

A key has been charging the net. The Frenchwoman, who turns 23 Friday, suddenly realized that while her groundstrokes pack plenty of power, chances of success on grass multiply greatly with effective volleying.

"I knew I shouldn't let her play her game, do what she likes to do, which is dictating," said Mauresmo, 1-3 against Capriati before Wednesday. "I took my chances, going forward, and it worked well."

Talk about understatement. She won the point on 22 of 25 trips to the net.

It might have been a career-boosting breakthrough for Mauresmo, whose left thigh was heavily bandaged.

Up and down

"My mental was a little up and down. I'm trying to put things together so that I go very far in a Grand Slam tournament. The head has to be good," Mauresmo said. "It's experience, maturity, maybe, growing up, learning from what I did."

The day had the feel of a videotape being repeatedly played and paused. Nearly three hours after play was scheduled to start, Capriati and Mauresmo were told to warm up.

But as they hit the first practice strokes, rain returned, tarps were pulled out and the players sent away for nearly an hour.

When play did begin, Capriati and Mauresmo got just 18 minutes in. Heavy rain was falling when Capriati's consecutive double faults handed Mauresmo a 4-2 lead.

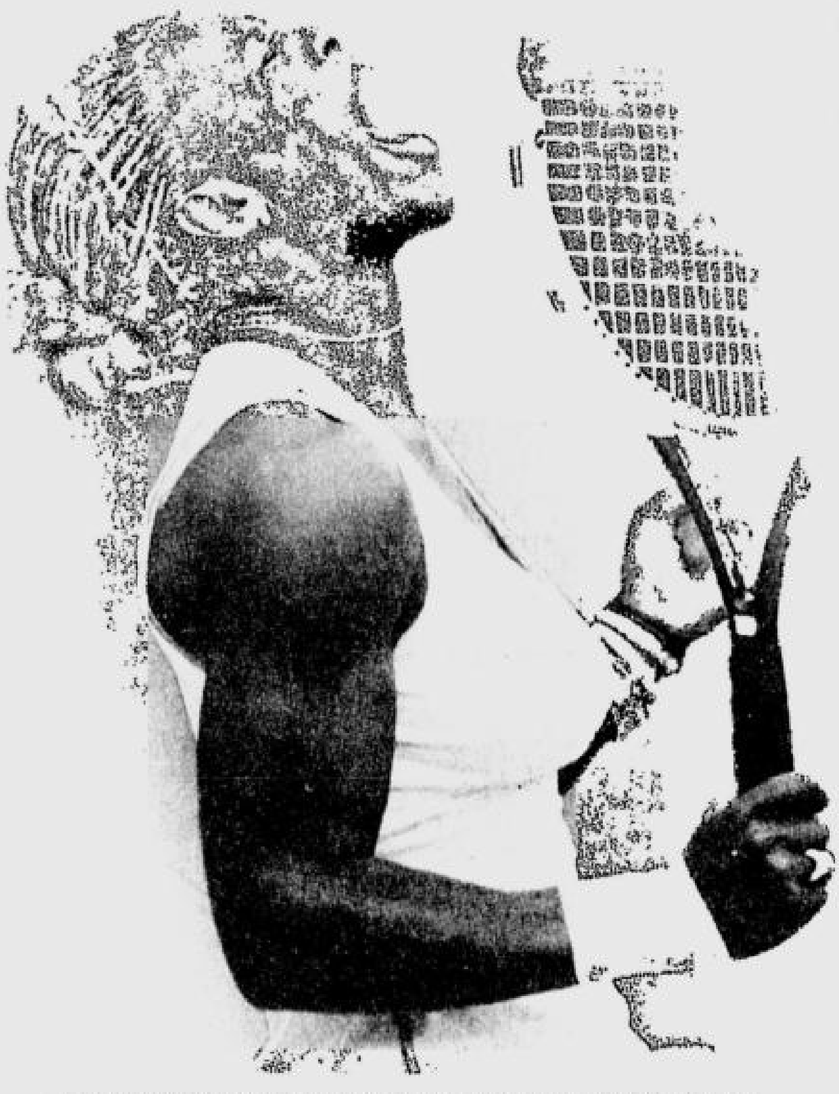
A 37-minute rain delay was followed by six minutes of action. Then came a delay of 19 minutes.

When they returned for the final time, Mauresmo broke the third-seeded Capriati's serve twice early in the second set to seal the outcome.

Plenty seemed to bother Capriati, including Mauresmo's penchant for waiting until the last allowable moment to get back on court after a changeover. Capriati loves to get a rhythm going, and would bound to the baseline quickly after a break.

She also glared at the chair umpire after consecutive serves by Mauresmo were called out by line judges but turned into aces by the overrules in the fourth game of the second set. The calls helped Mauresmo hold serve at love to go up 3-1.

"At that point," Capriati said, "I just realized things weren't going my way." **AP**



SERENA Williams yells in glee after completing a 6-3, 6-2 win over Hantuchova. AP

MAURESMO celebrates smashing 6-3, 6-2 victory over Capriati. AP

Thome nears ML record but Indians lose

NEW YORK—Cleveland's Jim Thome homered in his seventh straight game Wednesday, leaving him one short of the major league record, but the New York Yankees still beat the Indians, 11-8.

The Indians have lost four in a row and 11 of 15.

"It's nice, but it's not fun when you don't win," Thome said. "I haven't really given it much thought because of the way we've been playing."

Alfonso Soriano hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs for the Yankees, who improved to 11-0 against American League Central teams. The Yankees (52-31) have won five of six to move a season-high 21 games over .500.

Thome hit a 3-2 pitch from David Wells (9-5) to left-center with two outs in the seventh inning. The solo shot gave Thome an AL-leading 26 homers.

"He's pretty hot right now," teammate Ellis Burks said. "I just wish we could support him as well as he's been supporting us because he's definitely been carrying us."

The major league record for consecutive games with a home run is eight, shared by Ken Griffey Jr. when he was with Seattle (1993), Don Mattingly of the Yankees (1987) and Dale Long of Pittsburgh (1956).

COMPLETE RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 5, Toronto 2; N.Y. Yankees 11, Cleveland 8; Texas 6, Tampa Bay 5; Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 4; Anaheim 1, Baltimore 0; Seattle 3, Kansas City 0; Minnesota 2, Oakland 1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 6, Montreal 5; Chicago Cubs 6, Florida 2; Pittsburgh 3, Milwaukee 1; Philadelphia 8, N.Y. Mets 7; Houston 11, Cincinnati 4; St. Louis 4, San Diego 1; Colorado 14, San Francisco 4; Arizona 5, Los Angeles 3. **AP**

Support pours in for Asiad-bound athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CORPORATE sponsors have started to pour in their support to the fund-raising concert in behalf of the Filipino athletes seeing action in the Busan Asian Games.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain said the sponsors readily heeded his call for the athletes' cause. They have also supported the PSC's endeavors early this year like the Palarong Pambansa and the unveiling of the athletes' lounge.

Companies like Samsung Electronics, Centrum Vitamins, WG&A Super Ferry, Air Philippines, Philtranco, Brunswick, Peak Sports and Bank of Commerce have agreed to lend their support to the concert to be staged on Aug. 9 at the Philsports.

The concert also got another boost when total performer Gary Valenciano and the Sex Bomb Dancers agreed to lend their talents to the fund-raiser, joining a host of top performers in the concert to be billed as the "Alay sa Gintong Medalya."

"This is a good start in our ultimate goal which is to have a strong and permanent partnership between the PSC and the private sector for the betterment of Philippine sports," said Buhain.

He added that tapping popular artists is the best way to generate interest in sports because they appeal to a wide range of people in the society.

Also pledging their support in the concert are South Border, True Faith, Parokya ni Edgar, Jay Cayuca, RJ Rosales, Mon Faustino and Powerplay.

They will also sing the athletes' anthem in Busan titled "Saan Ka Man Lumaban" written by Floy Quintos and Moy Ortiz.

For details, call the PSC offices at 526-7221 or 5212364 and look for Arsenic Lacson or Ike Buan.

Annika different than rest

HUTCHINSON, Kansas—Annika Sorenstam sees a different golf course than the rest of the players in the US Women's Open.

The tight, rolling fairways at Prairie Dunes Country Club look as wide open as a Kansas highway. The elevated greens with their severe slopes seem so accessible. Someone might have to tell her about the thicket and waist-high weeds ready to gobble up errant shots.

Yes, it looks like an entirely different course.

Maybe that's because Sorenstam is playing a different game than everyone else.

"When I'm on the golf course, I see a big green, a huge hole, just the positive things," she said Wednesday after her final tuneup for the biggest event in women's golf. "I don't worry about out-of-bounds on the left or a water hazard over there.

"I put the ball in the ground. I see the fairway. I hit it," she said. "It seems so easy when you play well. I don't ask many questions. I just grab a club and trust it."

The results have been staggering.

Sorenstam has won six of her first 12 events on the LPGA Tour this year, including the first major championship after a short-lived duel among Karrie Webb and Liselotte Neumann. The only time she has finished out of the top 10 was in Atlanta, a tournament that was shortened to 36 holes because of rain.

On Thursday (Friday in Manila), the game Sorenstam has made look easy collides with the toughest test in golf when the U.S. Women's Open gets under way at Prairie Dunes. **AP**

Wide open race in Western Open

LEMONT, Illinois—Tiger. Tiger. Tiger.

For a guy who's not even at the Western Open, Tiger Woods still manages to be the center of attention.

For the first time since he turned professional, Woods is sitting out the Western Open, which he's won twice. He'd planned to play but withdrew Tuesday because of an unspecified illness.

But that didn't stop the Tiger talk. Far from it. Instead of the usual questions about how tough he is to play, golfers were asked instead Wednesday what his withdrawal means and if it changes their game.

"If Tiger withdraws, if Justin Leonard withdraws, I don't breathe a sigh of relief and say, 'Now I can win,'" said Davis Love III, who finished second to Scott Hoch by one stroke last year. **AP**

'Spiderman' win upheld

INDIANAPOLIS—Five weeks after the checkered flag fell, another Indianapolis 500 victory finally goes to "Spiderman."

Indy Racing League president Tony George said Wednesday he had rejected an appeal of the disputed finish between Helio Castroneves and Paul Tracy and declared the Brazilian known as "Spiderman" the race winner.

Castroneves celebrated his second straight Indy win by scaling the fences at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway twice–once after the race ended and again when the results were made official.

Until George spoke, though, nothing was final.

George said the split-second decision by IRL vice president Brian Barnhart–that Tracy's pass of the Brazilian driver occurred after the yellow caution flag flew–was unappealable and that even if it was, Barnhart still made the right call.

"The evidence reviewed was based on Brian's determination," George said during the news conference. "If he had called the race the other way, I would have had to stand by the rule the way it is written." **AP**

MBA NAT'L CONFERENCE

Amigos whipping boys no more

By Roy Luarca

JUST when the Casino Cayagan de Oro Amigos have turned hot, they were stopped cold.

The Amigos were enjoying a three-game winning run and looking for more in the Metropolitan Basketball Association when the National Conference took a mid-conference break to give the MBA selection's participation in the Jones Cup in Taiwan more attention.

Thus, the Amigos returned to the Mindanao Polytechnic State Colleges Gym with the sole intention of sustaining their momentum. They've found the formula of winning and they want to keep it till the conference resumes after the MBA All-Star game on July 27.

After dropping their first two games, the Amigos seemed headed for a repeat of their disappointing stint in the First Conference where they wound up with just two wins in 10 games and were booted out.

YCASIANO

EPONDULAN

The Amigos management and the coaching staff headed by Vic Ycasiano did a pep talk with the players just to loosen them up and let them feel like family. Little did they know that it would be the key to the Amigos' resurgence.

First, the Amigos stunned the RCPI Negros Slashers, 110-102, at the MPSC Gym on June 21.

Two days later, the Amigos were even deadlier when they beat the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 100-94.

On June 26, the Amigos flashed their sharpest form yet with a 101-96 victory over the erstwhile unbeaten Professional Davao Eagles at the Cebu Coliseum.

Players mainly responsible for the Amigos' rise in the Northern Conference are rookies Nani Epondulan, Ricky Calimag and Ruel Buenaventura and veterans Peter Naron, Randy Lopez, Derrick Bughao and Cornelio Manucat.

Epondulan, the 2001 NCAA MVP, is leading the Amigos offensive with Naron. Calimag, Buenaventura and Lopez, all bulky 6-foot-5, have terrorized their frontline counterparts; while Bughao is taking charge of the playmaking chores with recruit Aldrich Reyes.

Completing the underrated but solid Amigos lineup are Ariel Capus, Francis Sanz, Ogie Gumatay and Jean Michael Alabanza.

Ycasiano said credit should go to all the players because they have shown cohesion and coordination in their last three games.

If they play the same way before the mid-conference break, then expect the Amigos to shine even more when the MBA resumes action.

POC council nixes baseball team appeal

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee executive council recently refused to entertain the appeal made by the baseball association regarding its inclusion to the Asian Games.

POC secretary general Romy Ribaño yesterday said the council brought the appeal back to the Task Force Asiad which earlier rejected baseball's bid to be included in the Asiad-bound pool after failing to make the criteria.

"How can we act on it if the actual list of athletes going to the Asian Games have yet to be finalized," said Ribaño. "Until we have that final lineup, we can't decide on anything regarding the composition of the delegation."

He said the final list of athletes won't be ready until August, which is the deadline set by the Busan Asian Games organizing committee for submission of entries.

However, POC insiders said that the chances of the Philippine Amateur Baseball Association sending its men's team is very slim because it is clear it didn't meet the qualification, which is the No. 1 ranking at least in Southeast Asia.

Paba president Hector Navasero was counting on the endorsement by the Asian Association of Baseball which has written the POC twice, saying the RP men's baseball team ought to be in the Asiad.

But Ribaño maintained that the BAA does not have any authority over the POC on matters like sending athletes to the Asian Games.

The Task Force Asiad, led by Tom Carrasco and Tats Suzara, is set to fly to Busan, South Korea, this weekend to submit the preliminary lineup and attend orientation meetings.

Ribaño said the Task Force will declare only the approximate number of athletes going, while the actual list containing the names of athletes will be submitted next month yet.

Formula races at The Craic

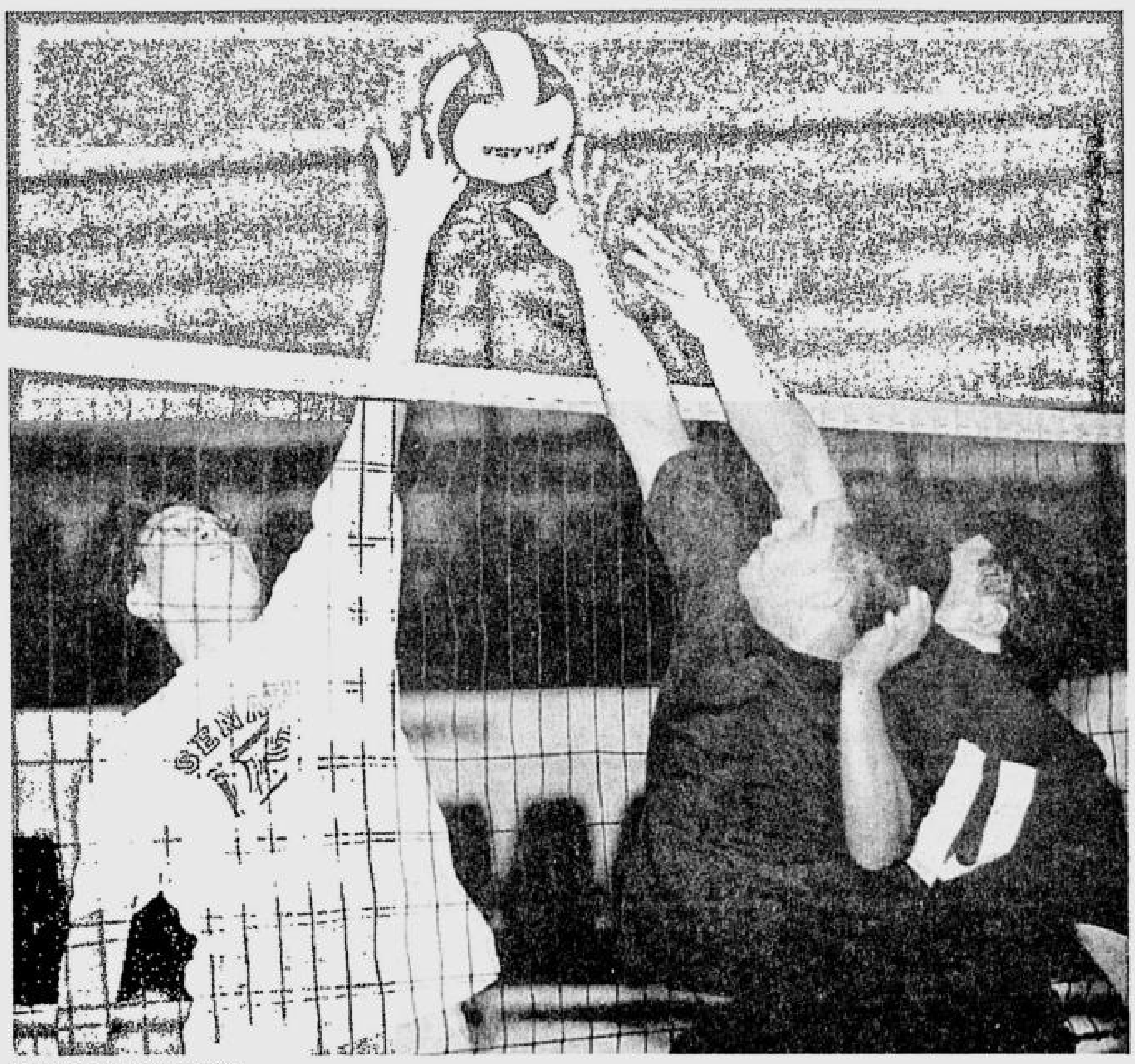
SMART Communications and Xtremeworx recently came to terms on their roles as partners in promoting F1 racing locally via the F1 Club Live Philippines and the Smart F1 Club SMS Service.

The F1 Club Live Philippines gathers diehard fans of Formula One racing to a single venue on race day to simultaneously watch their favorite drivers and teams in action. The club's organizers seek to foster friendship and camaraderie among those who share an equal passion for F1 through games and gimmicks.

The club's venue of choice since Round 3 has been The Craic, an authentic Irish Pub located at the 3rd level of Max's Restaurant along Jupiter St. in Makati.

It offers the best facilities for an enjoyable viewing of the races.

The Smart F1 Club Service, on the other hand, is an interactive facility which allows Smart subscribers to access real-time news and information on the F1 races, drivers, teams, circuits, standings, or how to join the F1 Club.



SPIKING SENATOR

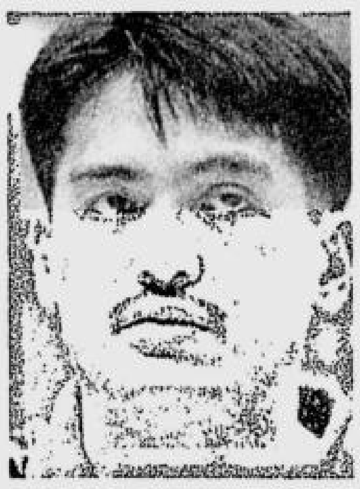
Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan (left) shows off his athletic prowess in the men's volleyball exhibition match during the opening of the Senate Mini-Olympics held recently at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. Pangilinan, a former varsity player of the UP Volleyball Team, held the spectators in awe as he spiked the ball over defenders to lead his team to victory.

La Salle 'Gimme Five' drive won't be easy, says Pumaren

By Dennis U. Eroa

COACH Franz Pumaren yesterday admitted that steering La Salle to its fifth straight UAAP men's basketball title is a tall order.

But Pumaren stressed that the Green Archers remain very competitive in the face of solid improvements by the other competing teams bannered by the Ateneo Blue Eagles.



PUMAREN

"I will be a hypocrite if I'll not admit that I like the "Gimme Five," Pumaren said. "Winning this year's title is not going to be easy. We have to stick to our system."

Team manager Terry Capistrano added that extending La Salle's reign requires lots of hardwork. "The team is working hard to achieve its goal. The coming season is going to be wonderful and memorable for all of us."

La Salle is parading four rookies in the men's basketball championship which unfurls on July 13 at the Araneta Coliseum. The Green Archers open their campaign on July 14 against the Far Eastern University Tamaraws.

Ren Ren Ritualo, many-time member of the mythical selection, is no longer playing after exhausting his playing years, weakening La Salle's firepower. BJ Manalo, Ritualo's heir apparent, is still nursing a foot injury and may be ready only at the end of the first round.

"My only problem is that we're unable to practice on time as a complete team due to injuries and our commitment to the PBL," said Pumaren. "We won the last four championships because of team effort."

The greenhorns are former Xavier high school star playmaker Tyrone Tang, former University of Santo Tomas ace JR Aquino, La Salle-Zobel's MVP Martin Urra, son of a basketball Hall of Famer, and Junjun Cabatu, son of ex-pro Sonny.

Known for its annoying full court, pressing game, La Salle still boasts of PBL Press Corps awardees Mike Cortez and Willy Wilson, Adonis Sta. Maria, Mark Cardona, Carlo Sharma, Manny Ramos, Joseph Yeo, Christian Cabatu, Mika Vainio, Michael Gavino and Cholo Villanueva.

Asked to comment on Ateneo-La Salle II, Pumaren said he isn't thinking yet of another return clash between the country's bitter collegiate rivals. He also ranked Ateneo, PBL Chairman's Cup champion, as the No. 1 seed.

"Other teams are capable of making the finals," said Pumaren. He didn't say, though, that as sign of things to come, the Eagles and the Archers found themselves closeted at the Tagaytay Highlands for their respective team building seminar over the weekend.

RP tankers cop 2nd in Bangkok

By Senen Bravo

MIGUEL Molina and Luica Dacanay powered the Philippines to second place in the recent 26th Southeast Asian Age Group Swimming Championship in Bangkok, Thailand.

Japan-based Molina (15-17 age group) hauled seven gold medals, including one in the 200-m breaststroke where he set a meet record 2:23.86.

Dacanay (15-17) clocked 31.87 in the 50-m backstroke to break her 32.17 record in last year's SEA Age Group in Malaysia. She also ruled the 200-m butterfly in 2:23.14 aside from bagging four silvers and 1 bronze.

Alistair Kennedy (11-12) ruled the 50-m butterfly in 29.19 and the 50-m backstroke in 31.33, both meet records.

Other medal earners were Bonus Bordado (2 golds), Ryan Arabejo (2 golds), Mars Danila (1 gold, 3 silvers), Evan Grabador (1 gold), Jenny Guerrero (3 silvers, 1 bronze), Marichi Gandiongco (1 silver, 3 bronzes), Louie Marquez (1 silver, 1 bronze), JB Walsh, Robbie Rivero, Heidi Ong (1 silver), Winston Chico (2 bronzes), Nichol Santiago, Ahli Frigillana, Mac Frigillana, Benji Uy and Martin Parrenas (1 bronze).

Japanese Ryuzo Ishikawa served as head coach of the Philippine team.

Thailand topped the age-group meet with 59 golds, the Philippines followed with 17 golds, while Singapore was third with 16 golds.

YAMAHA
Dickies

CHALLENGE CUP

DEFENDING champion Monching Gutierrez of the Dickies-MP Turbo racing team gets the checkered flag after posting a come-from-behind win in Round 8 of the SVI Challenge Cup series recently at the Subic International Raceway.

Truth about pro dance

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE ONLY legitimate body for professional dance in the Philippines is the Professional Dance Teachers Association (Prodanz) headed by Cynthia Mamon. It is a bona fide member of the World Dance and Sport Council, the ruling body for pro dance, whose officers led by president Karl Breuer recently reiterated that it is only Prodanz that can represent the Philippines in WD and DSC activities.

I write this piece to clear the air because another group is claiming to be the legitimate group for pro dance in the country when in fact it is not. Why is this group twisting the truth? Why is it confusing the public? What is their agenda?

The other group, according to sources, includes people with a dubious past. The public is therefore warned to be wary of this group, specifically its foreign dance teacher who has been "kicked out" of his own country but now conducts workshops in Metro Manila and other places. This man, reportedly from Down Under, is practicing his trade in the Philippines without a working permit.

Early in his dubious career, he teamed up with an expelled director of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, the amateur body recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee. This director was booted out of the council's board for alleged malversation of funds amounting to more than P700,000 given by the Philippine Sports Commission. Up to now, no one knows how this person was able to encash the PSC check nor where the money was spent.

* * *

JOB WELL DONE. Dance athletes of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines did the country proud once more by winning the gold and silver medals in the recent Singapore International Dancesport Championships. In the amateur standard closed event, Jerswin and Anny Poloyapoy won the gold, with teammates Edgar Borromeo and Ana Yango capturing the silver. While in the amateur Latin closed event, Ednah Ledesma and Jojo Calo finished first... St. Joseph Marilao Credit Cooperative, Inc. deserves a pat on the back for being elevated to the Hall of Fame as "Most Outstanding Cooperative in Bulacan" by the Bulacan provincial government and for being cited as "Most Outstanding Cooperative in Region 3" by the Land Bank of the Philippines. Kudos to the SJMCCI staff led by GM Conrado "Totoy" Santos... Congrats, too, to Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa of R&B Farm I for emerging Araneta Coliseum/NCA Cocker of the Year 2001-2002.

* * *

MEL LOPEZ VINDICATED. I'm glad to know that former PSC chair, amateur boxing head and Manila Mayor Mel Lopez has been cleared recently by the Sandigan of graft charges nine long years after the Office of the Ombudsman failed to submit the results of a reinvestigation of the case regarding his campaign to close the operation of two casinos in the city. The resolution clearing Lopez was penned by Associated Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro of the anti-graft court's Third Division.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, Day #10 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 11 a.m.), Day 10 - Singles Semi Finals at 12 noon (r), Day 11- Men's Singles Semifinals at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: PGA Europro Tour 2002 Highlights at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA Fedex St. Jude Classic Highlights at 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Inside the PGA Tour at 10:30 a.m. on Star Sports

U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship Preview at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. (r), First Round at 1 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (r), Second Round at midnight on ESPN

BASEBALL: MLB - Kansas City Royals vs Oakland Athletics at 9:30 a.m., Cleveland Indians vs New York Yankees at 4 p.m. on ESPN

SOCCER: Goals! Goals Countdown at 7 p.m. (r) on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

SIX DIGIT
3 6 5 1 5 2
(In exact order)

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Del Rosario strikes again

HONG KONG—Liza del Rosario struck anew for the Philippines, winning the women's all-events for her second straight gold medal in the 17th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships here yesterday. Last year's World Cup runner-up beat Korean Cha Mi-jung and fellow Filipina Ces Yap to win the event and become the most bemedalled kegler so far in the meet featuring the best players from 22 Asian countries.

COMMISSIONER'S CUP

San Mig, Purefoods clash in Iloilo today

Guiao, Aquino slapped fines

By June Navarro

ILOILO CITY—Governor's Cup titlist Purefoods and sister ballclub San Miguel Beer take separate paths today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the University of San Agustin gym here.

Jammed in a five-way tie at the lower portion of the standings, the TJ Hotdogs and the Beermen part ways in the 6:15 p.m. confrontation.

In their company are Federal Express, Barangay Ginebra and Sta. Lucia Realty, teams which also logged a lone victory in three starts.

Art Long, a former Seattle Supersonic, came out of his shell as he fired 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds to lead four Beermen in double figures during their 83-75 win over the Coca-Cola Tigers last week.

It was a big win for the Beermen who started the mid-season tournament on a sour note (0-2).

Shea Seals, who had a brief stint with the LA Lakers, also sparkled with 19 points and 9 rebounds while Dorian Peña made a killing inside the paint with 21 markers and 8 rebounds.

But it was Dwight Lago, San Miguel's reliable three-point artist, who inflicted a great deal of pain on the Tigers.

Lago buried four of his five attempts from the trifecta territory and came up with 15 points all done in the second half.

These guys alone could spell disaster for the Hotdogs, who are trudging a bumpy road in their way to another championship appearance.

Standings	W	L
Red Bull	3	0
Talk N Text	3	1
Coca-Cola	2	1
Alaska	2	1
Selecta-RP	2	1
Purefoods	1	2
Ginebra	1	2
Sta. Lucia	1	2
San Miguel	1	2
FedEx	1	2
Shell	0	3

GAME TODAY
(Iloilo City)
6:15 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Purefoods

Meanwhile, the PBA Commissioner's Office slapped P80,000 in fines on the players involved during a post-game incident between Batang Red Bull and Sta. Lucia Realty last Sunday.

Batang Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao was penalized P50,000 for giving Sta. Lucia's Marlou Aquino the finger before a nationwide audience.

Aquino, who threw invectives on Guiao, drew P20,000 in fines while Red Bull import Tony Lang netted P10,000.

The confrontation stemmed from Aquino's unsportmanlike conduct, which saw the 6-foot-9 slotman sneaking a punch on a hard-driving Lang.

Over at the Cuneta Astrodome last night, the Coca-Cola Tigers clawed the Barangay Ginebra Kings, 70-65, to post their third win in four outings. The Kings dropped to 1-3.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 70—Hale 29, Basemore 13, Avenido 9, Abarrientos 8, Abuda 4, Reavis 4, Antonio 3, Juinio 0, Balesteros 0

GINEBRA 65—Mills 18, Davis 15, Caguioa 13, Helterbrand 7, Walkvist 6, Limpot 6, Magtulis 0, David 0, Malabanan 0.

Quarters: 21-15, 29-21; 54-43, 70-65.

Letran, Mapua eye No. 2

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs Mapua (srs/jrs)

COLEGIO de San Juan de Letran and Mapua Institute of Technology aim to get a share of the lead with College of St. Benilde (2-0) when they take on separate rivals today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

On the strength of a methodical 69-64 win over San Beda College last week, the Knights are heavily favored to take it strong against the Philippine Christian University Dolphins in the 2 p.m. showdown.

The Cardinals, who thumped the Dolphins, 74-68, during their debut Saturday, try to deliver again when they tackle the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers in the other seniors tussle.

Both teams will try to equalize the feat of the CSB Blazers, who squeezed past defending champion San Sebastian College on Tuesday for a pacesetting 2-0 record.

"That victory over PCU took off a lot of pressure from us. Hopefully, we will have a good start against JRU this time," said Mapua bench tactician Horacio Lim.

Falling to as many as 19 points in the first half, the Cardinals worked their way up largely due to the persistence of workhorse Erwin Sta. Maria, Ryan Malig and the hot-shooting Roberto Lagar.

Malig's exploits gave the Cardinals their first taste of the lead while Lagar's trip to the freethrow line and a running jumper in the final minutes sealed the Dolphins' fate.

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Coy Quiros fired a five-over-par 77 to win the Class B plum of the Johnnie Walker Tournament of Champions golf series' ninth leg at Canlubang. Also today in 1992, James dela Cruz tallied 1495 pins to snare the singles crown in the 2nd SMBC-TCBA Open tenpin bowling championships at SM Center in Quezon City.

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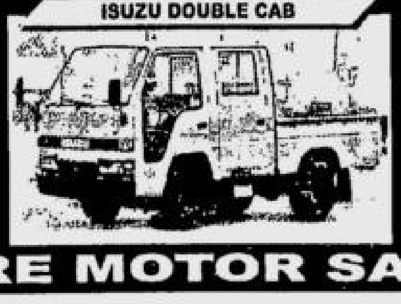
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TO QUALIFY FOR THE RAFFLES

3 correct answers = 3 points = 1 raffle entry

TO GET KEYWORDS FOR THE GAME

Key in **HELP QUIZ** and send to **288**.

See flyers for complete mechanics.

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WEEK	DRAW DATES	PRIZES
Week 1	July 8, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
Week 2	July 15, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
Week 3	July 22, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
1st Monthly Draw	July 29, 2002	2 winners of ₱50,000.00 each
Week 5	August 5, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
Week 6	August 12, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
Week 7	August 19, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
2nd Monthly Draw	August 26, 2002	2 winners of ₱50,000.00 each
Week 9	September 2, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
Week 10	September 9, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
Week 11	September 16, 2002	2 winners of ₱25,000.00 each
Highest Scorer	October 1, 2002	1 winner of ₱100,000.00
Grand Draw	October 1, 2002	1 winner of ₱1,000,000.00

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METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

▨ Bare Eye: DILG and Comelec cannot select their targets/A26

▨ Munti viaduct repair starts next month /A26

Kidnap gang boss bagged

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents yesterday said they have busted a big-time kidnap-for-ransom gang in Southern Tagalog after they arrested its leader.

The "Andra" gang is said to be responsible for the kidnapping of the owner of Raymond Transit in Tanauan, Batangas in December.

The gang leader was identified as Geraldo A. Andrade, 36, alias Ka Gerry or Ka Edwin, of Barangay Casasahan, Sariaya, Quezon, said

KIDNAP/ A26

▨ 29 journal employees dismissed /A26
▨ Bus fares might go up due to toll hike, warns NGO /A26

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SHANTY WITH A VIEW
The view from her Quezon City shanty might be the only world this child would know for a long time, unless she is given a chance to have a better life. ROMY HOMILLADA

Cable TV firm faces raps for airing World Cup

By Philip C. Tubeza

A CABLE television operator is facing charges of unauthorized rebroadcasting after it was found to have aired the 2002 World Cup without the proper permits.

National Bureau of Investigation acting director Fermin Nasol yesterday said charges would be filed against Taiwanese Phillip Chien, chair and president of Global Cable Television.

Global serves the cities of Makati, Pasay and Mandaluyong.

NBI agents began investigating Global after the Philippine Multi-Media System Inc. (PMSI), the licensed and exclusive broadcaster of the 2002 Fifa World Cup in the country, filed a complaint.

The National Telecommunications Commission issued an order for the inspection of Global's offices at the corner of Gen. Mascardo and Capt. Reyes streets in Bangkal, Makati, Nasol said.

NBI agents and NTC inspectors went to Global's office and confirmed that it was broadcasting the World Cup, which was held in Japan and South Korea, Nasol said.

He said Global had aired the World Cup series in real time over its Channel 99.

Investigators said Global got its feed from Thailand's Channel 11. They said the company "probably received the feed" from the Thaicom satellite.

Nasol said inspectors also found in Global's office four integrated receiver-decoder (IRD) boxes, owned exclusively by PMSI.

Global apparently used the IRD boxes to receive the signals of local television channels ABC 5, PTV 4, RPN 9, and IBC 13, authorities said.

PMSI officials said the IRD boxes were not sold to Global since selling them to another cable operator is prohibited.

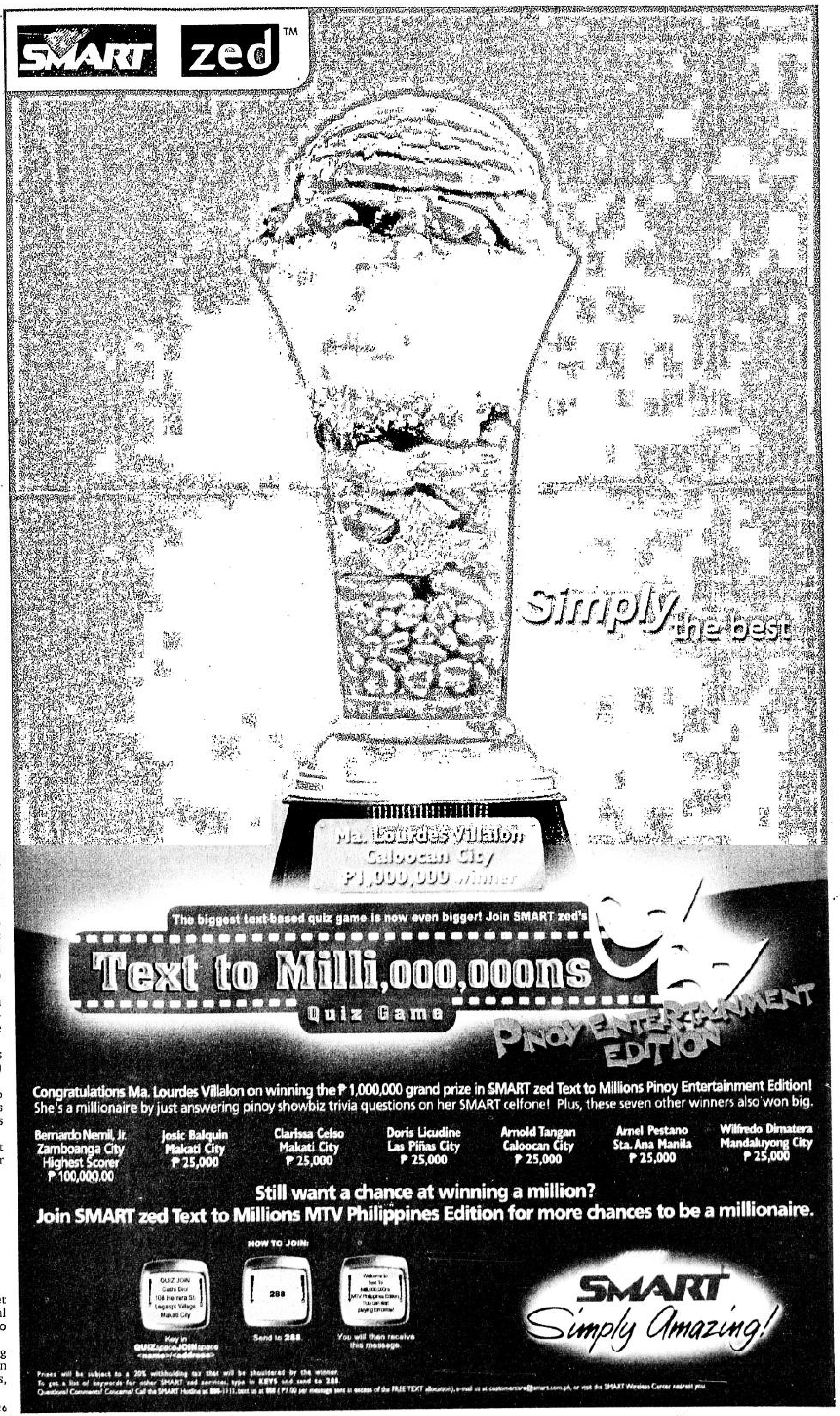
Woman dies saving pets

By Leila Salaverria

BECAUSE she could not leave her three pet poodles behind, a 76-year-old British national ran back inside her burning house to try to save them.

But Maria Durin Chamber perished along with her pets in a fire that razed her house on Noel Street at UPS I, San Martis de Porres, Parañaque City early yesterday morning.

WOMAN DIES A26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DILG and Comelec cannot select their targets

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

WE never realized Interior Secretary Joey Lina has such vast powers.

He was, in fact, often conceived to be a decorative official, a sort of wallpaper that was thrown in there to complete the cast.

But after Lina ordered the banishment of seven top police officers for failure to curb illegal gambling in their areas of concern, we were all awed by the knockout punch he packs.

For a while, it was easy to suspect that Gen. Edgar Aglipay, a hardworking, efficient and very visible officer who was among those axed by Lina, could himself be as powerful as the Interior secretary.

This was during that disturbing period when Lina appeared to be staying behind the scene.

It took Lina long to finally flex his mighty political muscles, and we need not ask why.

We can only be thankful that, this time, he appeared sincere and very serious in doing his job.

***

It was, of course, a bit perplexing that he had singled out jueteng, the illegal numbers game that had been helping feed several families in our neighborhood here in Mandaluyong.

I'm no fan of big jueteng lords like the elusive Bong Pineda, who has reportedly expanded his operations from Pampanga to as far as the Metropolitan Manila area.

But like my *kumpadre*, Mon Tulfo, I sincerely feel that Lina, if his punches had to be felt and counted, should slam bigger and more pernicious social evils like illegal drugs and kidnapping.

Mon Tulfo is on leave. But he was on the phone Wednesday, while I pinch-hit as Metro editor, and he bluntly explained that Lina was sorely missing the target.

He's big, he has the clout, he should go after kidnappers and drug lords, Mon said.

If it were in boxing, Mon added, the fight against jueteng would be nothing better than a sparring session.

Lina, he added, must flex his muscles in areas where they are badly needed. He must show he can really fight big fights.

***

Now, one top government official who need not be told how to throw his tested punches is Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos.

There's no way he could allow himself to be distracted, what with the barangay polls just around the corner.

You can bet Mr. Abalos will have his hands full attending to the forthcoming political exercise which, with its tribal nature, will predictably be marred by rampant cheating.

In fact, there were glaring incidents that showed dirty tricks were already being applied by certain parties to ensure victory in the barangay elections.

Take this self-explanatory letter from lawyer Romulo Macalintal which was sent to our desk last week, while your reporter was out on a mission in Malaysia.

"I have filed a petition with the Commission on Elections on behalf of my client, Ms Thelma Dumpit-Murillo, a broadcast journalist of RMN News and a candidate for *kagawad* of Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City asking the poll body to delete seventeen (17) fictitious names from the list of voters of Pasig City who, without her knowledge and consent, used her residential address when they registered as voters. Ms Murillo manifested that no person with such names had ever lived or is presently residing in any of her apartment units."

Nice move, but Macalintal has a problem: The period to file inclusion and exclusion of voters before the Metropolitan Trial Court had already lapsed.

Just the same, Macalintal said he filed the Murillo petition "invoking the constitutional power of the Comelec to enforce and administer all laws and regulations to insure a clean and credible election."

Macalintal has a neat explanation: "I am of the opinion that the Comelec has the power to hear and decide cases involving legitimate claims of voters who have been unjustly excluded from the list of voters without notice and hearing, as well as the power to delete fictitious names from the list of voters, to insure that only the enfranchised voters are allowed to exercise the right of suffrage."

This, Macalintal stressed, is a case "where what is legal should yield to what is practical and equitable under the circumstances."

***

Well, we can only wish Mr. Macalintal and his lovely client good luck.

In case the fighting lawyer is wondering, the case of nearly 200 voters in our locality (Vergara) in Mandaluyong whose names were excluded in the new list approved by the Comelec has fortunately been remedied.

The timely discovery by a *kagawad* in Vergara, himself running for re-election, of the apparent fraud had led Mayor Benhur Abalos to make drastic moves.

He ordered the local Comelec registrar to look into the case, whereupon the missing names were instantly restored.

Comelec officers and clerks, sounding and appearing very apologetic, claimed the discrepancy was caused by a computer error.

But because the voters whose names had been excluded in the new list belong to a group batting for reforms in said barangay, it was jokingly suggested that the Mandaluyong Comelec computer was rather sharp and, ehem, very selective.

29 Journal employees dismissed

A TOTAL of 29 employees of the sequestered Philippine Journalists Inc. (PJI), which publishes People's Journal, People's Tonight and People's Taliba, were dismissed.

The dismissal was implemented by Malacañang appointees now running PJI, according to Journal employees.

According to a statement issued by the Journal Employees Union, the appointees, headed by Bobby de la Cruz, former editor of Philippine Star, dismissed 29 regular employees on June 28, saying they were contractuals and their contract had expired.

Union president Ajie Lagonoy said the dismissal was arbitrary and disregarded the employees' rights to notice and due process.

Lagonoy said the case of the 29 employees and other cases have been pending since last October before the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB). The case was not resolved due to the turnover of management last January from former PJI president Philip King to De la Cruz, the union said.

The other appointees running PJI are Arnold Bañares, executive vice president; Ruby Ruiz Bruno, chief legal officer; and Ceferino Arellano, chief financial officer.

The union said the appointees, particularly Bañares, even directed the PJI security guards to bar the 29 from the company premises.

The union said the employees were compelled to file a notice of strike in order to stop management from busting the union.

Bus fares might go up due to toll hike, warns NGO

By Leila Salaverria

BUS FARES might go up if the proposed toll rate increase at the Skyway system is implemented, according to Ray Junia, chair of the Movement for Responsible Enterprise (MORE).

Junia yesterday said that a consolidation of forces might take to the streets to protest the toll increase.

He called on those who would be adversely affected by the rate increase, including community leaders and homeowners' associations, to band together since they have similar objectives.

"We're all asking for the same thing, so we might as well work together," he said. "Advocacy groups and other non-government organizations from Taguig to Calamba should now make a stand on this issue that directly affects the family income."

Junia said that if the Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC) is successful in implementing higher fees, bus operators might be forced to shift the burden to the public.

"Where do you think bus operators will get the money to pay for the new rates?" he asked.

The toll increase was supposed to take effect on July 1, but the PNCC Skyway Corp. had suspended the increase until July 16 after an appeal from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

CMMTC had earlier announced the 100 percent increase in the toll rates.

Junia also said that lawyers opposing the increase have brought the issue to court.

He said lawyer Ceferino Padua has filed a petition before the Supreme Court, while lawyer Victor Avecilla has asked the Court of Appeals for a temporary restraining order.

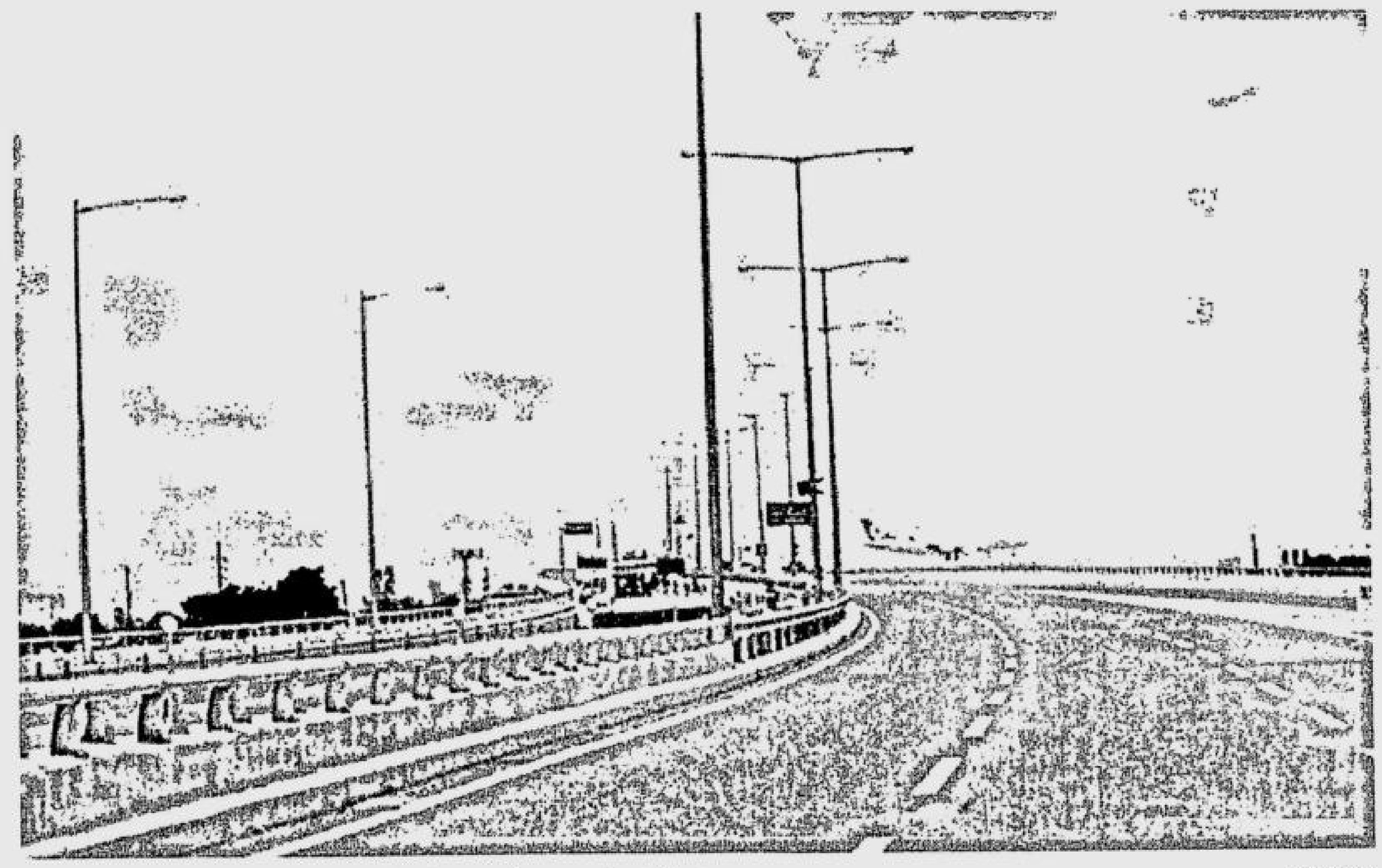
Lawyers Efren Carag and Maritess Santos have also brought the issue to the Toll Regulatory Board and the Office of the President, Junia added.

He said MORE hopes to exhaust all legal processes to stop the increase, and mass action remains an option if all else fails.

Junia said that if the government wants to raise the toll at the Skyway, there must be an alternative route that the commuters can use for free.

"We are held hostage by one route," he said. "If the government builds another road that we can use for free, then we won't care if they raise the Skyway rates to P10,000."

Junia said a temporary secretariat is organizing a protest move and interested parties may sign up at 869-9745 and 529-4406.



THE SKYWAY before it was rocked by plans to increase the toll rates.

JESS YUSON

METROBRIEFS

Gunned down in Tonsuya

CITIZENS Against Crime and Corruption member Benjamin Aquino was shot dead by two unidentified men in his house yesterday in Malabon City. Aquino, of Samahang Mahihirap, Paradise Village, Tonsuya, Malabon, died from a gunshot wound in the head while being treated at the Manila Central University. Policemen said Aquino was resting in his house when two men barged in at about7:45 a.m. Case officer PO2 Redentor Mantala Jr. said one of the men shot him with a .45 caliber pistol. Policemen theorized that the two men were hired guns since they walked away from Aquino's house as if nothing had happened. They said the killing could be related to Aquino's work in his group. One of his duties was to tip off authorities about illegal activities in his area.

Tina Santos

Shooting, suicide in Pangarap

A JOBLESS man killed himself after he shot dead his cousin teacher over money matters in Caloocan City yesterday, policemen said. The teacher, Carmelita Palumbarit, 39, of Pangarap Elementary School, and her cousin Efren Gildori, of Virgo Street, Pangarap Village Caloocan City, both died on the spot. PO2 Aristotle de Guzman said the incident happened at about 10 a.m. in Palumbarit's house at the corner of Sta. Maria and San Agustin streets in Guadanville, Amparo Subdivision, Caloocan City. Palumbarit's maid, Margie Malakubang, told policemen that Gildori came to collect payment for services he earlier did for Palumbarit. Gildori got mad when Palumbarit turned him down, investigators said. Gildori shot Palumbarit in the back with a .38 caliber revolver and then shot himself, investigators added.

Tina Santos

Mobbed in Quezon City

AFTER allegedly breaking into the house of Eliazar Don Verano, 31, in Quezon City, and taking a video compact disc player yesterday, Renon Briones 34, of San Francisco del Monte, hid in a canal to evade Verano's neighbors who had chased him after the theft, policemen said. Briones emerged several hours later and found his pursuers still waiting for him. They beat him up until policemen came to stop them and arrest the suspect. Charges of theft will be filed against Briones.

Alcuin Papa

Munti viaduct repair starts next month

By Christian V. Esguerra

MORE than a year after the Alabang viaduct first showed signs of a possible collapse, the elevated structure in Muntinlupa City would finally undergo repair starting next month.

The city government on Wednesday announced the multi-million-peso Alabang Viaduct Rehabilitation Project (AVRP) that will provide immediate remedy for the shaky overpass.

The Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) will start the repair on Aug. 1 with the construction of two express lanes for trucks on the national road located below the viaduct, said city engineer Vic Navarro.

The two feeder lanes will serve as a "corridor for trucks to pass unhindered from the Alabang entry and exit gates," according to a statement from the Muntinlupa government.

In four to five months, the PNCC will widen the interchange to further decongest traffic.

Navarro said the PNCC would then build additional elevated lanes that would run parallel to the existing viaduct.

But he asked the PNCC to clarify if it would widen the viaduct. He said if it was widened, it would hit nearby establishments such the Metropolis mall.

A key element of the AVRP will be the post-tensioning procedure that will strengthen the girders supporting the concrete lanes of the viaduct. The PNCC will also put up seismic reinforcements to firm up the structure and prevent the vibrations that occur whenever heavy vehicles pass by, according to Navarro.

While the AVRP is expected to douse fears about the rickety viaduct, Navarro said the PNCC would still have to totally rehabilitate the structure to ensure the safety of motorists.

"(The AVRP) is a good start, though," he said. "But what the viaduct really needs is complete rehabilitation."

Woman dies saving . . .

From page A25

According to fireman Anthony Aquino, the fire apparently started in the dogs' quarters inside the house at about 1:48 a.m. Chamber and her friend, Swiss national Marliz Habluetzel, woke up due to the smoke and heat from the fire and were able to rush outside, along with their driver and two maids.

But upon realizing that the poodles were still inside the burning one-story bungalow, Chamber decided to go back inside.

She did not get out alive again, nor did the poodles.

Investigators believe Chamber died due to smoke inhalation. Habluetzel, the driver and the maids are all unhurt.

The fire was put out at about 3 a.m. Damage to property was estimated to be around P4 million. Investigators were still trying to determine the cause of the fire, said Aquino.

Kidnap gang boss . . .

From page A25

acting NBI director Fermin N. Nasol.

The suspect was presented to the media yesterday. The NBI said Andrade confessed that he was involved in the gang's negotiations but he denied that he was the gang's leader.

Nasol said agents from the NBI-Intelligence Special Operations Division, headed by lawyer Oscar L. Embido, began hunting down Andrade after the bus line owner was released.

The victim allegedly paid the gang P3.5 million.

Nasol said that after a sustained surveillance operation, NBI agents traced the whereabouts of Andrade in Barangay Mamala II, Sariaya, Quezon.

Once they pinpointed Andrade's exact address, the lawmen arrested him and later brought him to the NBI headquarters in Manila.

Andrade became the second gang member to fall to the NBI. In February, NBI-Isod agents also arrested Eduardo Fernandez while receiving ransom money in San Pablo City.

Andrade and Fernandez are now detained at the NBI jail while NBI agents hunt down their other accomplices.

Nasol said charges of kidnapping for ransom and robbery had been filed before the Regional Trial Court in Tanauan.

No bail was recommended for their temporary liberty, Nasol added.

POWER PLANT
C I N E M A
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

JUST VISITING - GP 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	**LIFE OR SOMETHING - P 13** 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	**SUM OF ALL FEARS - P 13** 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
BAD COMPANY - P13 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:55, 10:20	**SCOOBY DOO - GP** 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	**MINORITY REPORT - P13** 12:45, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00

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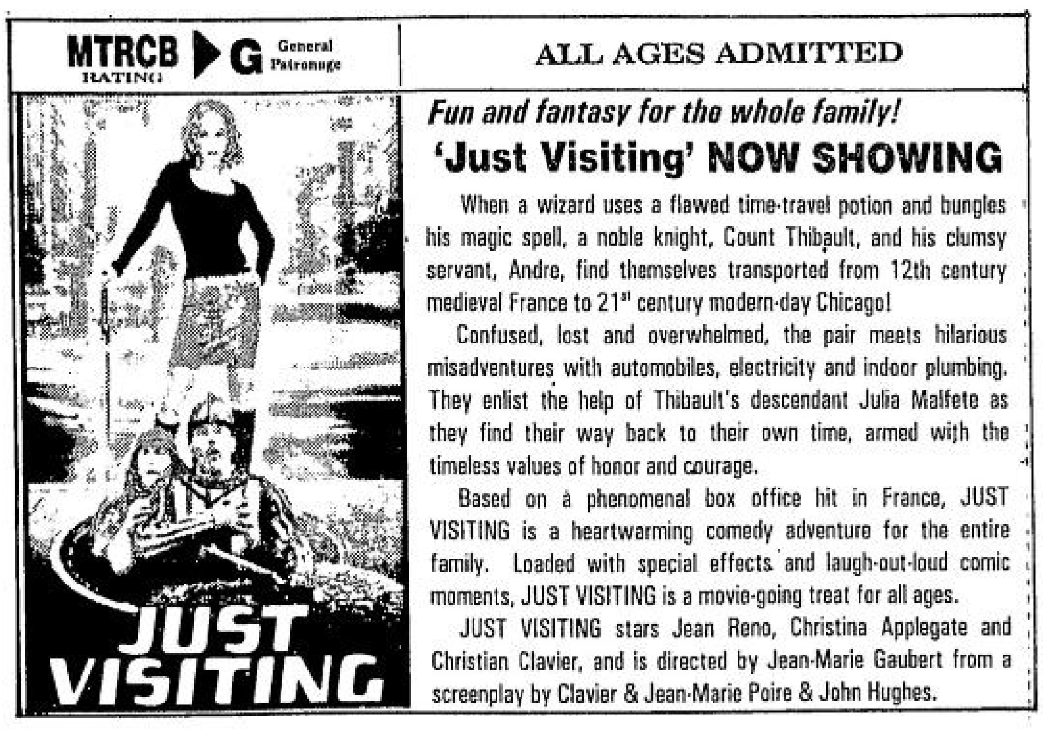
GET a bite of the most "delicious" album, "Pop," now in a new and improved party flavor fortified with fresh pop hit ingredients like Westlife, Backstreet Boys, N'Sync, Britney Spears, Pink, Alicia Keys, Christina Aguilera, Aaron Carter, LFO, Dido, O-Town, Five, Steps, B3, Groove Armada, Kosheen and Alcazar.

"Pop" is released under BMG Records (Pilipinas), with Popsicle Magazine and Rebel Prepaid Internet Access. It is now available in CDs and cassettes at in leading record bars nationwide.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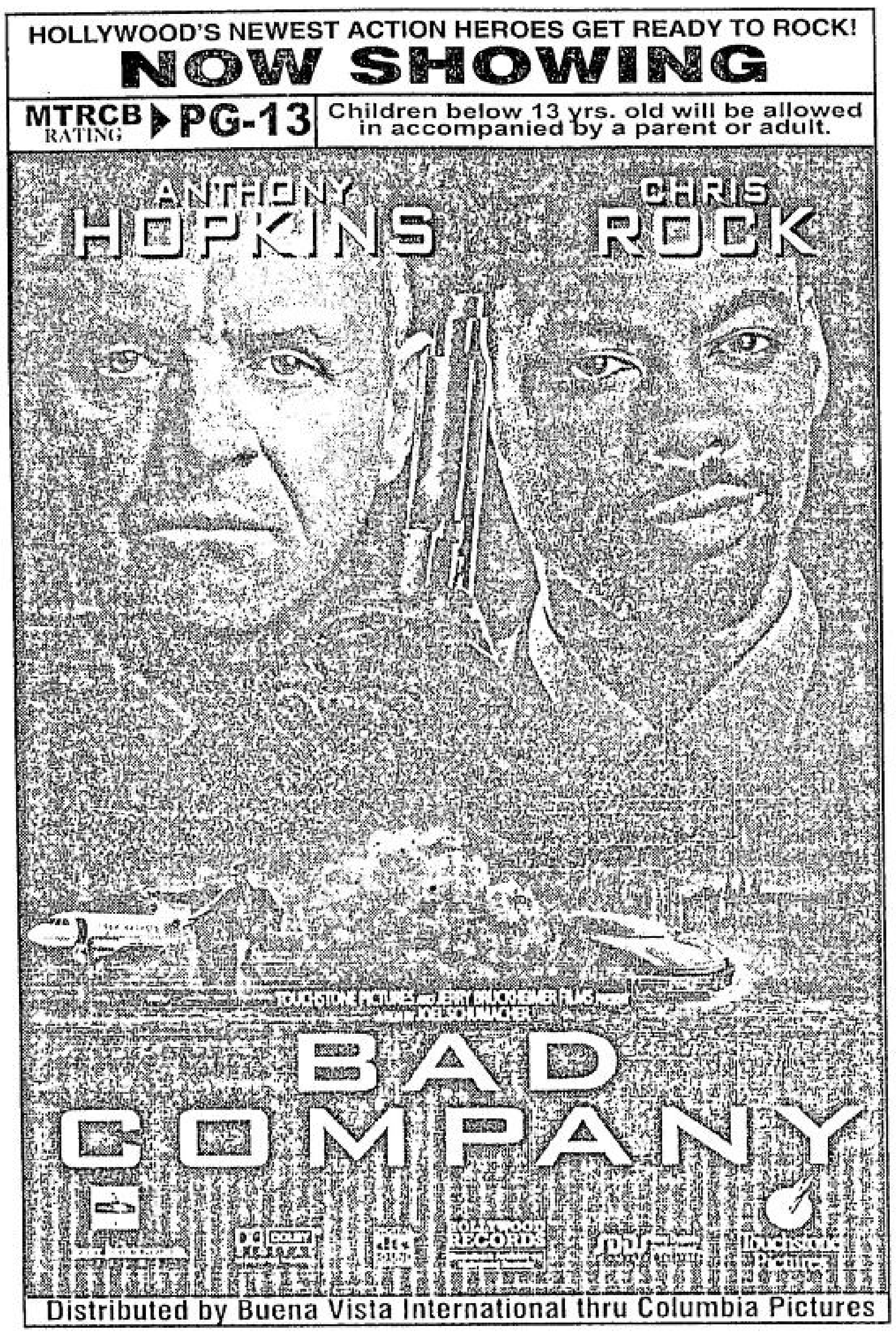
Confused, lost and overwhelmed, the pair meets hilarious misadventures with automobiles, electricity and indoor plumbing. They enlist the help of Thibault's descendant Julia Malfete as they find their way back to their own time, armed with the timeless values of honor and courage.

Based on a phenomenal box office hit in France, JUST VISITING is a heartwarming comedy adventure for the entire family. Loaded with special effects and laugh-out-loud comic moments, JUST VISITING is a movie-going treat for all ages.

JUST VISITING stars Jean Reno, Christina Applegate and Christian Clavier, and is directed by Jean-Marie Gaubert from a screenplay by Clavier & Jean-Marie Poire & John Hughes.
JUST VISITING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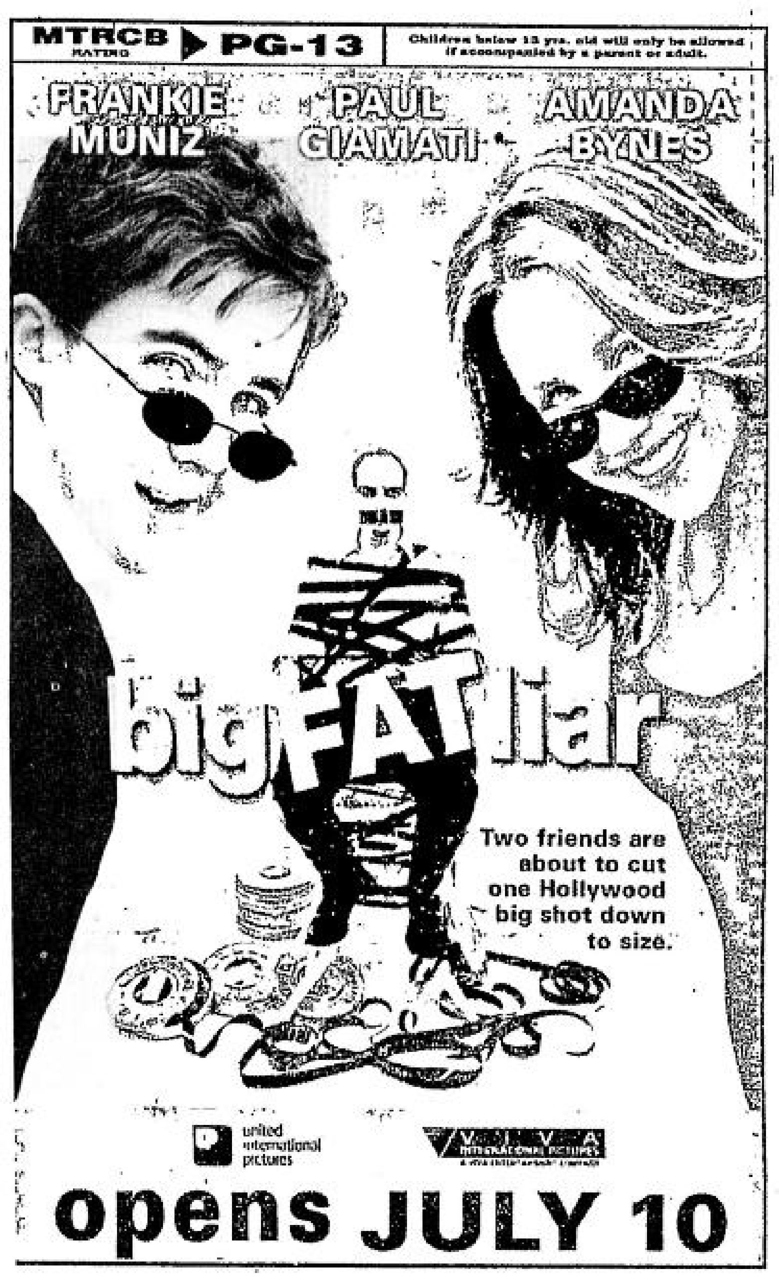
CHRIS ROCK
TOUCHSTONE PICTURES AND JERRY BRUCKHEIMER FILMS
JOEL SCHUMACHER
BAD COMPANY

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JUST VISITING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SLACKERS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASARAP ANG BAWAL / SALSA
ODEON	MINORITY REPORT
ODEON-2	DISKARTE
ROBEN	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TANDEM-1	MAMASAN
TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR-2	TAMPISAW
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	FOREVERMORE
B	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-2	BAD COMPANY
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	TAMPISAW
CINEMA-3	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-6	SLACKERS
CINEMA-7	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-8	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-12	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-14	LEGEND OF THE TITANIC
CINEMA-15	FOREVERMORE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-2	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-4	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-5	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-6	MINORITY REPORT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID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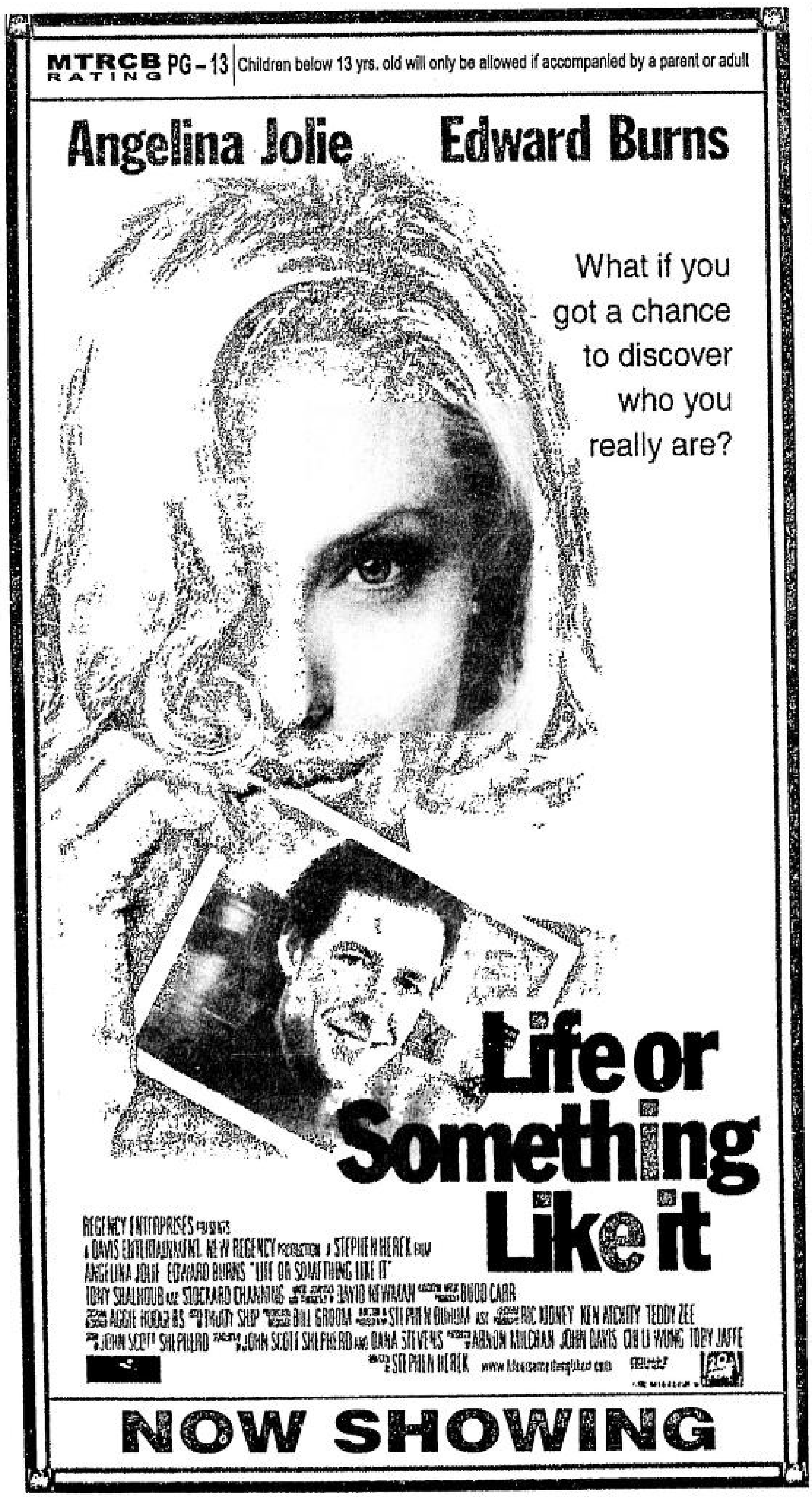
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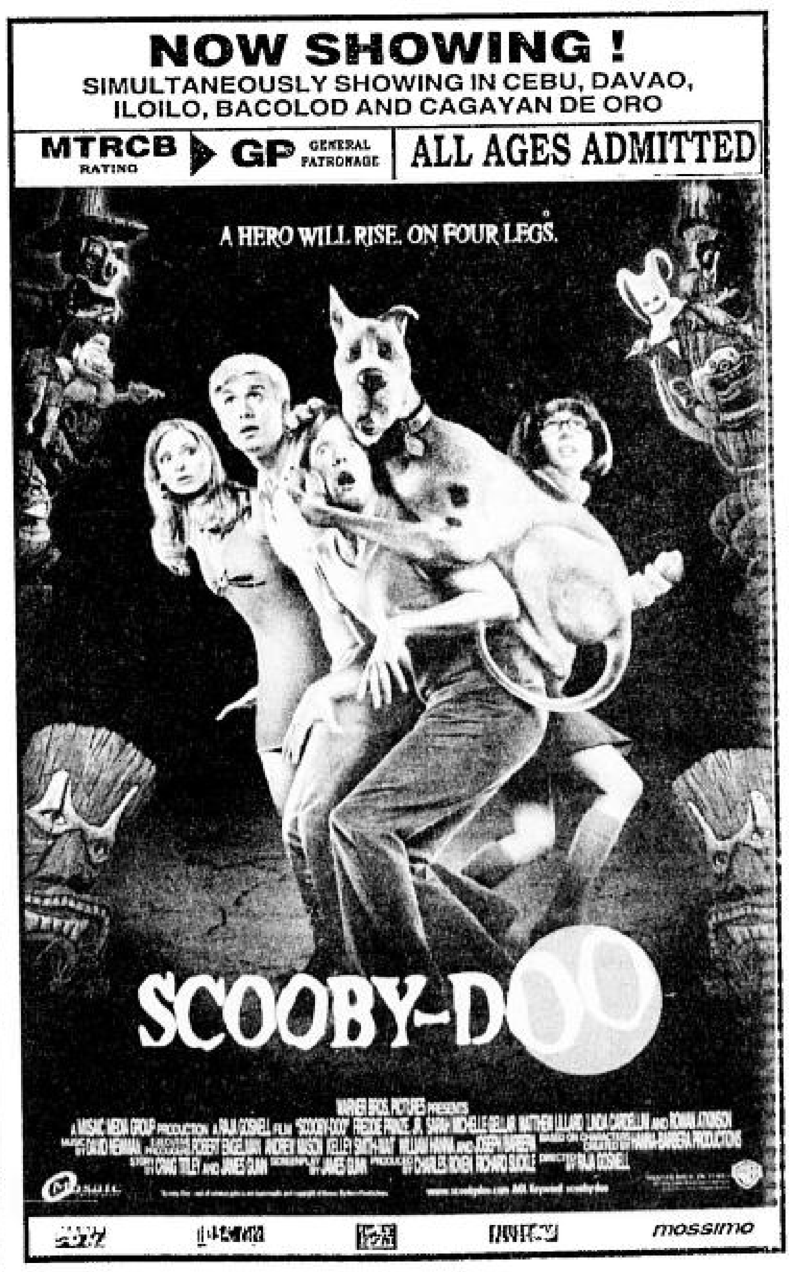
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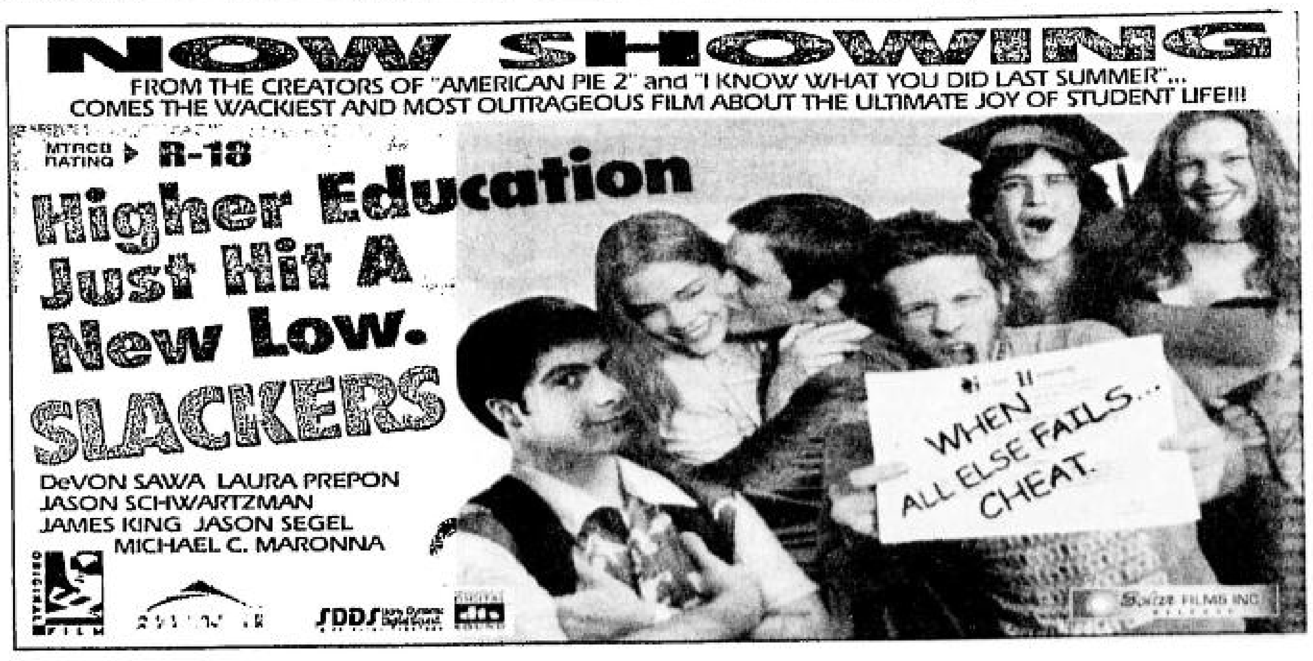
SCOOBY-DOO
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
mossimo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1 (DDS)	SLACKERS
2 (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT
3 (DTS)	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 GOLD (DTS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	JUST VISITING
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
8	FOREVERMORE
9	LEGEND OF TITANIC
10	SCOOBY DOO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
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1	
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING..
3	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

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1	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3	SLACKERS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD COMPANY
5	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	BAD COMPANY
2	TAMPISAW
3	JUST VISITING
4	FOREVERMORE
5	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	BAD COMPANY

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SCOOBY DOO
2	FOREVERMORE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
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1	RESERVE
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3	RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	RESERVE
A	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	FOREVERMORE
2	RESERVE
3	BAD COMPANY
4	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	FOREVERMORE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
5	JUST VISITING
6	SLACKERS
7 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
8 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
9 (DOLBY)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	FOREVERMORE
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3	SLACKERS
4 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
5	JUST VISITING
6 (DOLBY)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
7 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	TAMPISAW

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
5 (SDDS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
6	FOREVERMORE
7 (DOLBY)	JUST VISITING
8	BAD COMPANY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	FOREVERMORE
2	BAD COMPANY
3 (DTS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
5 (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
Lords	TAMPISAW
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FOREVERMORE
2	BAD COMPANY
3	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3	RESERVE
4	FOREVERMORE
5	LIFE OR SOMETHING . .

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	MAMASAN
2	

Berma
TEL. 8792030 / 8792029

1	TAMPISAW
2	MINORITY REPORT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TAMPISAW
2	FOREVERMORE
3 (DTS)	BAD COMPANY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BAD COMPANY
2 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE
3 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FOREVERMORE
2 (DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
3 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING . .

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	FOREVERMORE
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	FOREVERMORE
2	DRAGONFLY
3 (DOLBY)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
2	TAMPISAW
3	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3 (DTS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING
4	TAMPISAW
5	BAD COMPANY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	FOREVERMORE
2	BAD COMPANY
3	MINORITY REPORT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3	BAD COMPANY

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	
2	
3	

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	TAMPISAW
2 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SELDA
2	FOREVERMORE
3	SCOOBY DOO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	MURDER BY NUMBERS
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	FOREVERMORE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BAD COMPANY
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

THX
CMC INTERNATIONAL

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BAD COMPANY

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
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SM CITY BACOOR
4173808

1	SLACKERS
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	JUST VISITING
5	BAD COMPANY
6	FOREVERMORE
7	KATAWAN MO . . .
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	FOREVERMORE
2	JUST VISITING
3	BAD COMPANY
4	LEGEND OF TITANIC
5	MINORITY REPORT
6	KATAWAN MO . . .
7	SUM OF ALL FEARS
8	SCOOBY DOO
9	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
10	SLACKERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2	JUST VISITING
3	MAGKAPATID
4	BAD COMPANY
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	FOREVERMORE
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	A WALK TO REMEMBER
10	TAMPISAW
11	SLACKERS
12	KATAWAN MO . . .

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	JUST VISITING
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	BAD COMPANY
5	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	SLACKERS
8	KATAWAN MO . . .
9	FOREVERMORE
10	LEGEND OF TITANIC
11	A WALK TO REMEMBER
12	SCOOBY DOO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	JUSTY VISITING
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	SUM OF ALL FEARS
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	SLACKERS
7	LEGEND OF TITANIC
8	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
9	FOREVERMORE
10	BAD COMPANY
11	KATAWAN MO . . .
12	A WALK TO REMEMBER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452

1	SLACKERS
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	KATAWAN MO . . .
4	FOREVERMORE
5	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
6	JUST VISITING
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	BAD COMPANY
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
8086888

1	LEGEND OF TITANIC
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
3	BAD COMPANY
4	JUST VISITING
5	SLACKERS
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	FOREVERMORE
8	MINORITY REPORT
9	SCOOBY DOO
10	KATAWAN MO . . .

SM CITY CEBU
2313078

1	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	BAD COMPANY
3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
4	I AM SAM
5	DISKARTE
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	FOREVERMORE
8	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
2	CLOSED
3	CROSSROADS
4	FOREVERMORE
5	DISKARTE
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	CLOSED
8	RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	MURDER BY NUMBERS
3	BAD COMPANY
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	MONSTER'S BALL
6	FOREVERMORE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	FOREVERMORE
4	BAD COMPANY

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	BAD COMPANY
2	JUST VISITING
3	KATAWAN MO . . .
4	FOREVERMORE

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
2	DISKARTE
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	FOREVERMORE
5	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6	RESIDENT EVIL

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
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1	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
2	BAD COMPANY

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1 THX	MINORITY REPORT
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	JUST VISITING
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
5	BAD COMPANY
6	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	FOREVERMORE
8	SLACKERS
9	TITANIC
10	SCOOBY DOO

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	BAD COMPANY
2	TITANIC
3	SLACKERS
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
5	FOREVERMORE
6	JUST VISITING
7	MINORITY REPORT

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	SLACKERS
2	BAD COMPANY
3	JUST VISITING
4	FOREVERMORE
5	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	SCOOBY DOO

Novaliches
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1	MINORITY REPORT
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3	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
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Shows on Star World

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FANS of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" will be pleased to know that the popular program continues its dominance as the leader in daytime talk shows, after 15 seasons on the tube.

This, despite the radically ambitious shift in the program's intent. "Originally," **Oprah** recalls, our goal was the uplift, enlighten, encourage and entertain. Now, we're trying to use television to transform people's lives, to help viewers see themselves differently, and to bring happiness and a sense of fulfillment into every home."

"Oprah" is telecast weekdays at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the Star World channel. This coming week's schedule of topics:

July 8, **Tom Cruise** and **Steven Spielberg** talk about "Minority Report."

July 9, "Dr. Phil's Weight Loss Advice." Are you sick of diets? Sick enough to try something new? Dr. **Phil** is kicking off a three-part series to help you lose weight—and keep it off!

July 10, "What Your Mother Never Told You About Sex." Want to know a secret to living longer? Author Dr. **Hilda Hutcherson** says all it takes is great sex!

July 11, "Stop Being a Doormat." Calling all pushovers, people-pleasers and wimps—you know who you are! Enough already! Do you have trouble saying "No"? Life Coach Dr. **Martha Beck** is back to cure your "disease to please."

July 12, "At Home with the Experts." They are the gurus and pros, always dishing out advice. Now, we're turning the tables on them! Do they practice what they preach? Take a look at celebrity chef **Wolfgang Puck**, makeup maven **Bobbi Brown** and supermodel **Veronica Webb**, and see if they live up to their expert advice in their own lives!

As for loyal viewers of "Kids Say the Darndest Things" (**Bill Cosby**'s show), which used to air on free TV but stopped telecasting some months ago, you'll be happy to know that it's now being telecast on Star World every Sunday at 5 p.m.

The show is loads of fun because it features candid interviews with kids, who spontaneously try to explain some of life's deepest mysteries, like the rules of baseball, politics, dating, and home life with mom and dad.

Being an overgrown child himself, Cosby knows how to get past his kid guests' initial nervousness or reticence, and enveigle them into coming up with some really hilarious and insightful observations.

Also featured are funny home videos sent in by the kids' proud parents. And, from time to time, Cosby screens "classic" snippets from telecasts in the '50s and '60s, courtesy of the show's originator, **Art Link-letter**.

Another popular show on Star World has also stood the test of time: "Family Ties" (M-F at 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.) focuses on the zany Keaton family. This week's stories:

July 8, "Cry Baby." The Keaton family adjusts to life with the new baby. But, while everyone caters to the new arrival, little Jennifer struggles with jealous feelings about not being the baby of the family anymore.

July 9, "Don't Know Much About History." Alex and his friend James go into business together as tutors for their fellow students in school. However, their competitiveness threatens to undermine their friendship, particularly when one of their students turns out to be a very attractive young lady.

July 10, "Bringing Up Baby." With two careers, three bickering children and one demanding baby, Steven and Elyse can't seem to find any time for each other. But when they do finally take the time for a quiet evening alone, they miss the chaos.

July 11, "Cold Storage." With the family away for the weekend, Mallory is excited about having the house all to herself—until she is accidentally locked in the basement with the person she would least like to be with, her adoring neighbor, Skippy.

July 12, "Remembrance of Things Past." Steven takes a nostalgic trip to his hometown following the death of his father and, with the support of his wife and children, tries to prepare his mother for her new life.

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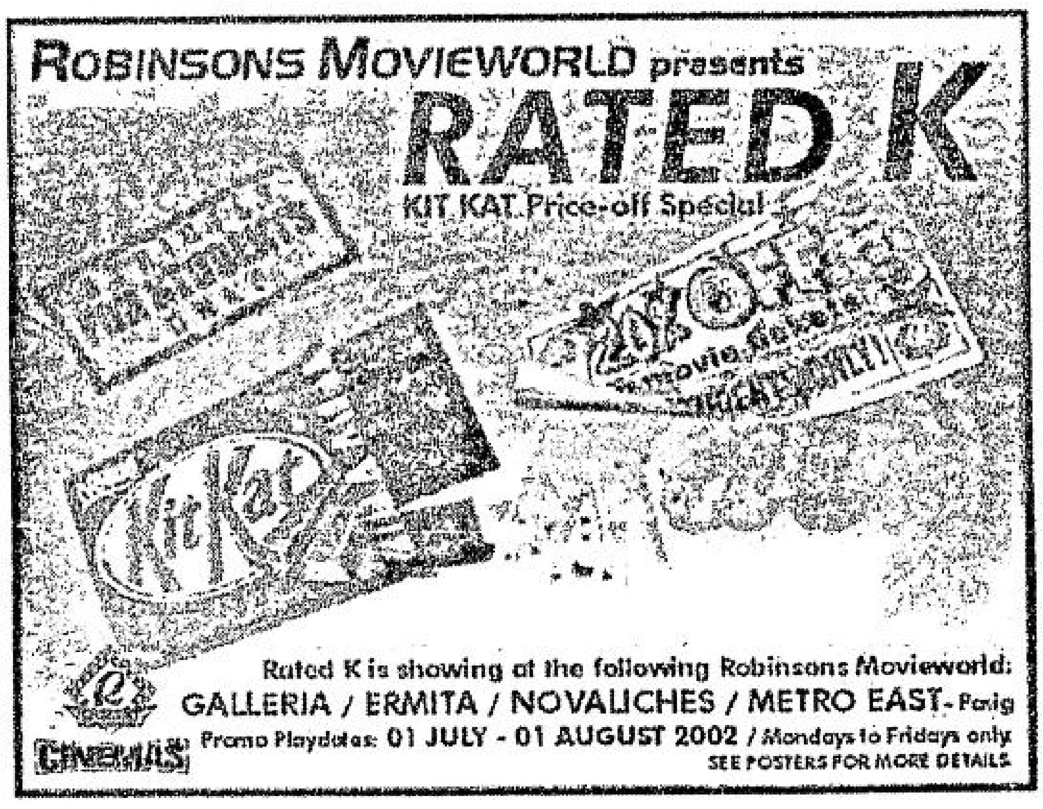

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3 FOREVERMORE	3 MINORITY REPORT 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00, 12:00	3 AMELIE	3 JUST VISITING 11:10, 1:10, 3:10, 5:10, 7:10, 9:10, 11:10	3 LIFE OR SOMETHING...
4 MINORITY REPORT	4 LEGEND OF THE TITANIC	Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM July 5 & 6	4 BAD COMPANY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 SCOOBY DOO
	5 JUST VISITING		5 SUM OF ALL FEARS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	5 JUST VISITING
	6 LIFE OR SOMETHING...			
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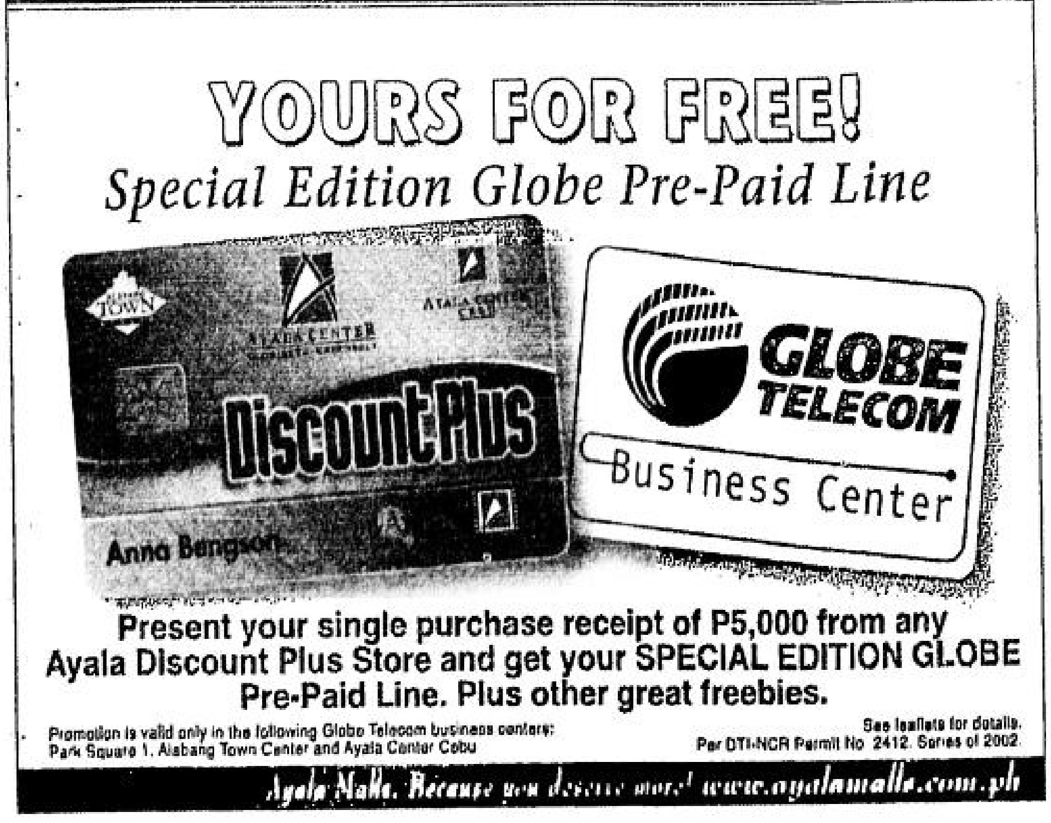

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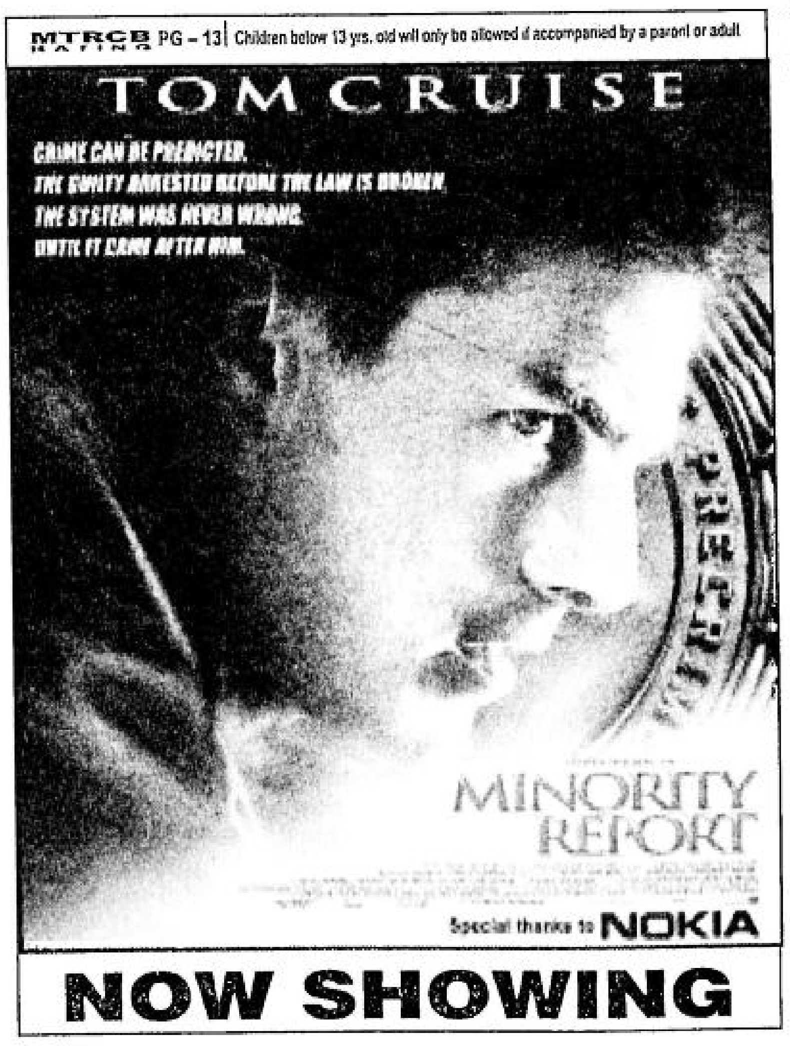

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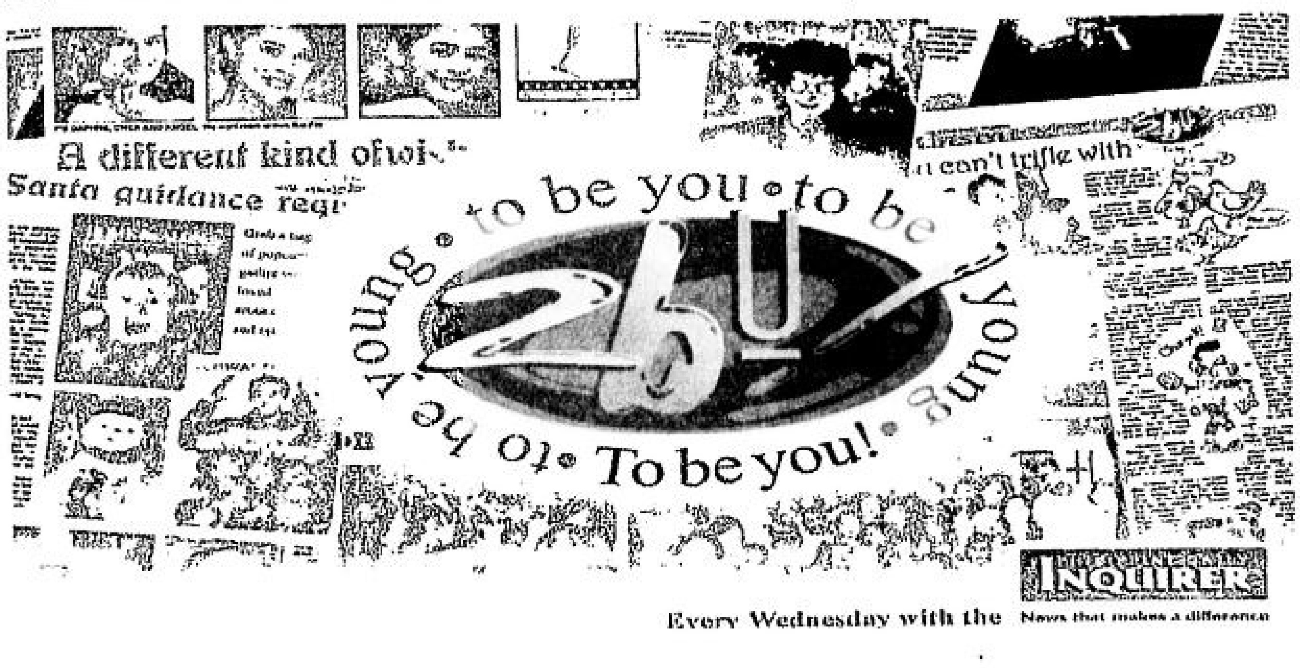

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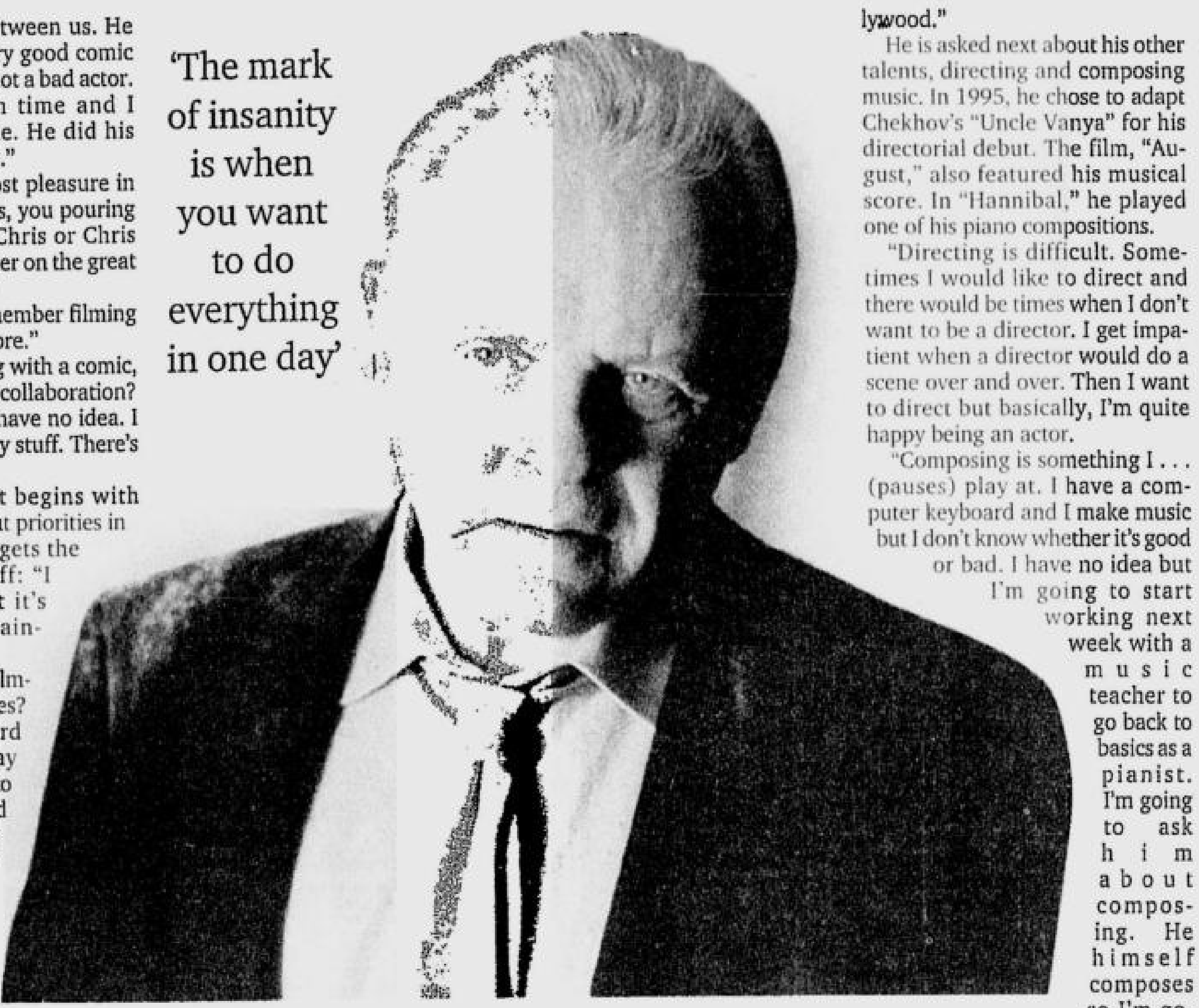
Every Wednesday with the INQUIRER News that makes a difference

SIR ANTHONY HOPKINS

'There's no mystery: Either you can act or you can't'

By Ruben V. Nepales



HOPKINS. Glad to be alive.

> 'The mark of insanity is when you want to do everything in one day'

LOS ANGELES—Hannibal Lecter is offering cookies from his plate. But not one of the eight journalists in the hotel room with him accepts the offer of Sir Anthony Hopkins, whose (in)famous film character said, "I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice Chianti."

One of the writers instead tells the knighted actor, who is grabbing a quick bite of fruits and cookies for lunch: "We want to watch you eat and write about your table manners."

"Hmmm," says the man popularly known for his flesh-eating character as he chews a cookie. "Do you want a cookie?" he asks again in that beautiful Welsh baritone.

The assembled press is trying to be at its best behavior this afternoon, aware of the actor's distaste for personal questions and his curt responses to anything that smacks of pomposity or that he deems "stupid."

One of the world's greatest actors, who has played American presidents, Richard Nixon and John Quincy Adams, Pablo Picasso and Adolph Hitler, is stylishly put together in a sports coat, dress shirt, cuffed trousers and loafers, in varying shades of brown. He is prone to uttering understatements ("I happen to be not a bad actor") and doesn't mind saying "I don't know" again and again to questions that don't interest him or he finds dumb or too prying.

He makes acting sound like it is simply a matter of speaking his lines. In "Bad Company," his new movie with comedian Chris Rock, Hopkins is speaking his lines rather well. He engages in action scenes as well.

'It's a job'

One writer refers to the movie's title and asks the 64-year-old thespian if being surrounded by journalists is his idea of bad company.

"No," he laughs as he scoops raspberries. "I know I give some weird answers because I don't know what else to say to half of the questions. Some questions are just stupid. 'Why did you take this part?' I say 'I don't know.' Or 'What made you work with Chris Rock?' I answer, 'I don't know. I'm just an actor. I just do the work.' I don't need reasons for anything. Do you have a reason to be here? It's a job."

There's nothing like "stupid" questions to rescue the interview: What made you decide to do an action film?

"My agent recommended it. He suggested that I read the script. He mentioned Chris Rock and I said, 'Yeah, alright'."

You are two very different people.

"Well, we don't look alike, I know that. I don't think there's much similarity between us. He happens to be a very good comic and I happen to be not a bad actor. He showed up on time and I showed up on time. He did his stuff and I did mine."

Who had the most pleasure in filming these scenes, you pouring ice and water on Chris or Chris pouring ice and water on the great Anthony Hopkins?

"I don't even remember filming those scenes anymore."

An actor working with a comic, is that a battle or a collaboration?

"I don't know. I have no idea. I let him do the funny stuff. There's no battle."

A question that begins with "This movie is about priorities in life" immediately gets the Hopkins brush-off: "I don't know what it's about. It's entertaining."

Did you enjoy filming the action scenes?

"No, no. It's hard work. They're okay but then you have to do them over and over again. I think we did some of those action scenes for two weeks so they're not enjoyable, they're hard work."

Did you do all the fighting yourself, like in the car chase scene?

"Yeah, yeah there I am, you see me in camera."

Do you fight well when needed?

"Christ, no. It's only a movie."

Are you still teaching acting? (Los Angeles Times ran a story that Hopkins has been teaching on Saturday mornings at the Ruskin School of Acting in Santa Monica. His salary? A cup of coffee.) "I haven't because I have been away."

Simple

You said in the Los Angeles Times article that if you cast a movie well, there's no acting required. Is that true?

"Yeah."

Or was that a joke?

"No."

It sounds so simple.

"It is simple. An actor's job is simple compared to what a director or an editor has to do."

Is that an attitude that you learned early on?

"Well, I've learned very early on that acting is much simpler than what people make it. People make it very complicated but they choose to. I've worked with people who choose to make it very complicated and so I wait in the dressing room until they're ready to make the scene."

Is that what you're teaching to your students?

"Yeah, I try to say to them that acting is much simpler than what people make it out to be. It takes a lot of experience and my principal pleasure in working with young actors or students is that I see them attempting to complicate it. They'll get up and act out a scene, whether it's from Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, Pinter or Shakespeare, whoever. Because of their lack of experience, they'll tend to overdo it, overact or overcomplicate it so I let them do the scene but at the end of it, okay, fine, they get a round of applause from the other actors in the studio, which is good because it's all affirming, no criticism. It's all right.

Pleasure

"A few of these students are not pretty talented but they enjoy the experiment of acting. It breaks down their inhibitions like they were children. So I go along and I say there is no mystery to this. Let's work it out. They tend to overdo everything and clutter everything up. I say, let's pull it all apart. What's great and a pleasure is seeing them open up, and the pleasure of discovery is Zen-like. Aahh! It's wonderful to see that because so many people were taught by gurus, phonies and frauds who set themselves as teachers.

"I've been on the receiving end of gurus. They're horrible. There's nothing to learn from them at all. They set themselves up as little gods of knowledge. But there's no knowledge. Acting is a process of something quite simple. You can either do it or you can't."

Do directors these days dare to give you acting directions or they pretty much let you go at it?

"They direct (me). I worked with a very good director recently, Brett Ratner ('Red Dragon,' where he reprises his Hannibal role). He's a very controlling director. Controlling—that's a fashionable word to use but totally appropriate. He's a film aficionado. I valued his input because he did many takes but cinematically he knows what he sees. I don't. I'm not that well schooled. I'm not a Martin Scorsese. I like films but I'm not a passionate analyst of films. I leave that to the aficionados like Scorsese or this guy, Brett Ratner, who knows about movies. I'm not interested in that. So being on the receiving end of his directions is really good. And surprising for me because he's a young director."

Any plans of returning to the theater?

"I can't do it. I get bored. After three nights, I go, Oh God, how many more? I admire people who can do it like Judi Dench and Ian McKellen and they're great.

"I have been backstage at theaters where friends of mine perform. You see them after a performance. I ask, how many more have you got? 'Another six months.' I say, 'Bye, I'm off to Hollywood."

He is asked next about his other talents, directing and composing music. In 1995, he chose to adapt Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" for his directorial debut. The film, "August," also featured his musical score. In "Hannibal," he played one of his piano compositions.

"Directing is difficult. Sometimes I would like to direct and there would be times when I don't want to be a director. I get impatient when a director would do a scene over and over. Then I want to direct but basically, I'm quite happy being an actor.

"Composing is something I . . . (pauses) play at. I have a computer keyboard and I make music but I don't know whether it's good or bad. I have no idea but I'm going to start working next week with a music teacher to go back to basics as a pianist. I'm going to ask him about composing. He himself composes so I'm going to find out if there's any possibility that I may be able to take a course in composition. I don't know yet. Everything is flexible. Maybe next year, I'll be a composer, maybe I'll be conducting."

Dual citizenship

Saying he sticks "very much with my own little world" on his days off, Hopkins recites what he does.

"Walk. Eat. I read five books all at the same time."

You're a beach bum really. Is that true?

"I act like a Californian. I like to walk on the beach. I like the coast, the sea. I also walk up the mountains."

He is a Californian. He angered the British press when he was sworn in as a US citizen before family and VIP friends such as Steven Spielberg and John Travolta. Dual citizenship allows him to keep the knighthood bestowed on him by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993.

"I love the climate, the coast, the hills (of California) and you can go to the mountain right in the middle of the city. You can drive anywhere. I just love it. You got some people who are a little odd but so what, that's in any place. There's a sense of openness. You can look at all the negative side as well but why bother?"

Is it true you also take quite long drives?

"I used to. I haven't done it for sometime. I like to drive. Get into my car and go off somewhere."

He has been known to drive (he says his current car is a Toyota Hybrid) on a whim, from one distant state to another. Texas to Washington, for instance. In 1975, when he drove from Los Angeles to Phoenix, Arizona and fell asleep at the wheel, he vowed to stop drinking. He has given up the bottle since then.

These long drives were solitary trips. Hopkins divorced his wife of 29 years, Jennifer Lynton, only recently but they had been living apart since 1995.

Divorce

Nobody in the group dares to ask Hopkins about this divorce. His first marriage was to Petronella Barker, with whom he has a daughter, Abigail Hopkins, an actress. Father and daughter shared a brief scene in "The Remains of the Day."

Hopkins does talk about his mother, Muriel Hopkins, who is nearing 90.

"I enjoy taking care of her. I phone her and make sure she's okay. She's gung-ho. She loves to go out and party. I make sure she is in good health. It's something that I feel good about."

His father, a baker in the small Welsh town where Richard Burton grew up, has passed away. At 15, Hopkins got Burton's autograph when the latter came to town. As Burton drove away in his Jaguar from this village, Hopkins wanted to become famous like him.

Twenty-two years later on Broadway, Burton took over the part that Hopkins performed for eight months in "Equus."

On getting old: "It's interesting getting old because there are no expectations anymore. No big passions and ambitions anymore. I'm just happy to be here."

You don't have any passions anymore?

"Yeah, I don't have any passions. I'm happy just being alive, living a peaceful life."

You don't have a passion for life?

"No, I don't have a passion for life. I'm just glad to be alive. Passion is such a bloated word."

He raises his arms and makes a mock grand statement, his voice growling like Hannibal ready to attack: "I live! It's so nonsense."

Did you use to have a passion for life, early on?

"You tell me. I have a question now. What do you describe as passion for life? Are you passionate when you get out of bed?"

The writer is undaunted: "In the morning, yes, I'm hungry to do a hundred things."

"Good. But the mark of insanity is when you want to do everything in one day. You can only do certain things. Life is not a great tirade."

Film producers, stars to grace int'l filmfest in Bohol

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

AN INTERNATIONAL film festival in Bohol?

To others, it sounds unthinkable. To some, it's rather odd. To the skeptics, it will never be feasible.

But Boholanos dauntlessly pooled their resources and organized the Directors' Cut International Film Festival, the first in the province, which will be a major highlight of the eco-cultural fiesta celebration, "Sandugo sa Kalinaw 2002."

Local and international films will be screened throughout the festival, which runs from July 16 to 19. The stars and producers of the local movies have also given their nod to grace the event.

"We want to promote the island as a destination for filming and show the world what Bohol can offer as a province," said **Hans Schoof**, president of the Boholano-Foreign Friendship Foundation, Inc. (BFFFI), who accepted the challenge of the Bohol Sandugo Foundation to organize this year's "Sandugo" festival.

Schoof was able to get the commitment of local and international celebrities to grace the "Sandugo" festival, which marks Bohol Day on July 22.

"We want to attract both local and international tourists," he said. "We also want to give Boholanos a sense of pride and cultural identity through this festival."

Schoof also takes pride in the fact that the filmfest was conceptualized in his Bohol residence, where the likes of **Cesar Montano**, **Sunshine Cruz**, **Bayani Agbayani** and writer **Jake Tordesillas** have been to.

Five local films will be premiered in Bohol. These are **Joel Lamangan**'s "Magkapatid," which stars **Sharon Cuneta** and **Judy Ann Santos**; **Olive Lamasan**'s "Got To Believe," with **Claudine Barretto** and **Rico Yan**; **Lav Diaz**'s "Batang Westside," with **Joel Torre**, **Yul Servo** and **Gloria Diaz**; **Mel Chionglo**'s "Kapalit," with **Alma Moreno** and **Jay Manalo**; and Regal Films' "Laman."

Foreign films with themes on peace and multi-cultural issues will also be shown. They are from Goethe Institut (German), Instituto de Cervantes (Spanish), Alliance Francaise (French), the Australian Center and the Japan Foundation.

The filmfest is co-sponsored by the Directors' Guild of the Philippines (DGP), which chose Bohol as a prime venue for its pilot outreach program to further promote Filipino movies and encourage local movie goers to patronize Filipino films.

Director **Maryo J. de los Reyes**, who is a native of Bohol, pledged to make a homecoming to his province for the festival.

Other filmmakers who will make the trip to Bohol include **Joel Lamangan** who produced "Kapalit" under his newly formed production outfit and **Carlitos Siguion-Reyna**, whose short film, "Payatas," will also be shown during the festival.

Regal Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde** will lead the producers who will attend the filmfest, with **Vic del Rosario** of Viva Films, **Armida Siguion-Reyna** of Reyna Films, **Malou Santos** of Star Cinema and **Tony Veloria** of Hinabing Pangarap Productions.

With "Sandugo sa Kalinaw," Schoof is optimistic that Bohol will be known not just for its tourist spots like the famous Chocolate Hills or the Panglao and Balicasag destinations.

"The festival is a celebration of Bohol's heritage, arts, culture and tourism," he said. "It is also meant to uplift the values, dreams, concerns and aspirations of Boholanos."

Teen stardom

WHOEVER says that **Cogie Domingo**'s popularity is waning is perhaps not aware of the extent of stardom of the young actor.

At 16, Cogie has been given excellent career breaks which proved to be elusive even to veteran actors.

Even when he was still a tyro in show biz, Cogie got a memorable role in the Regal suspense-drama, "Sa Piling ng mga Aswang," where he played the brother of **Maricel Soriano**. It was a top-grossing entry in the 1998 Metro Manila Film Festival.

The following year, Cogie was given a bigger break by Regal Films in **Jose Javier Reyes**' tearjerker, "Yakapin Mo ang Umaga," where he pitted acting talents against **Christopher de Leon** and **Lorna Tolentino**.

For the millennium, Cogie shared stellar billing with veteran actor-director **Eddie Garcia** in the award-winning filmfest entry, "Deathrow."

Cogie was later launched into teen stardom via "Cool Dudes," with **James Blanco** and **Danilo Barrios**.

His success prompted GMA 7 to give him a starring role in the soap, "Kung Mawawala Ka." Subsequently, the trendy garment line, Penshoppe, signed him up as image model.

Now, Regal Films reinforces Cogie's stellar appeal by pairing him with two of today's hottest female stars—**Judy Ann Santos** and **Alessandra de Rossi**—in "Pakisabi na Lang . . . Mahal Ko Siya."

"This is the biggest break in Cogie's career," says Regal's Mother Lily. "But just like other Regal babies who turned out to be big stars, we will also give Cogie a chance to work with other film companies. We are never selfish because we believe that promising actors like Cogie should be given a chance to grow. At the end of the day, his success will also be regarded as Regal's success."

The lady producer is apparently grooming Cogie to follow the same exciting route to stardom of **Gabby Concepcion**, **Richard Gomez**, and many other major Regal stars who came after them.

"That is exactly how I saw things would happen three years ago when I first signed up Cogie and I'm so happy to be proven right again," Mother Lily said.

She also takes pride in having brought together Cogie and Judy Ann, who come from rival networks.

"They cannot be seen together on TV, so Regal made the tandem possible in the movies," she said.

"Pakisabi Na Lang" is directed by **Boots Plata** and also stars **KC Montero**.

DOMINGO. Reinforces his stellar appeal with a movie opposite Judy Ann Santos and Alessandra de Rossi.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Dingdong's latest, meatballs and thrillers

MY GOOD friend **Tatus Aldana** told me to get a copy of **Dingdong Avanzado**'s latest album, "Here to Stay." His own favorite in the album is Dingdong's revival of a **Rey Valera** composition, "Walang Kapalit."

With all due credit to Dingdong and his producer **Raymund del Rosario**, the album is beautifully arranged. It contains a mix of songs that can be aptly described as songs that are here to stay because of their timeless quality and sound.

From the initial wave of publicity for the album, I know that some fuss was made about the inclusion of Dingdong's composition "Paalam Na," because he had written this in tandem with his former girlfriend, **Rachel Alejandro,** who recorded it first.

I don't know if they were just both being prescient about where their relationship was headed, but it's such a truthful song and it evokes even more meaning when sung from a male's perspective. The strings accompanying the song are exceptionally effective in getting the sentiments of the song across to the listener.

I'm already treading on dangerous ground because I realize that what I'll have to say will be subject to a lot of interpretation. But even taken outside of my own personal experience, the lyrics of "Paalam Na" are words we can all identify with, and remain hopeful about.

"Darating sa buhay mo, pagibig na laan sa 'yo.

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

At mamahalin ka niya nang higit sa maibibigay ko."

Spaghetti with a twist

A couple of days ago I had another session with **Jun de Leon** for a new batch of Swatch Bijoux photos. His studio is located almost next door to a Jollibee. Commercials really grab my attention and I'm often tempted to try the product being advertised.

Jollibee's latest ad for their meatball spaghetti captured father-son bonding with a cute twist. I had the pasta for my energy source during the seven-hour photo session. The flavor of the sauce was really delicious. It had the right blend of tomato, semi-spicy and semi-sweet flavors. It was a more adult version of Jollibee's famous spaghetti, and it was portioned just right to keep me fortified. It's definitely worth a try.

Clark and Patterson

I just **Mary Higgins Clark**'s latest book, "Daddy's Little Girl."

It arrived with my latest Amazon.com delivery which, I must note, was quite heavily taxed. I ordered only books. In my past experience, only DVDs and videos would be subject to customs duties. For a US$160 order, I was billed nearly P3,000 in duties. The finance department must really be going after all sources of revenue.

In the book's introduction, the queen of women's suspense says this is her first time to write in the first person. She writes as Ellie Cavanaugh, an investigative journalist whose 15-year-old sister Andrea was murdered 22 years ago.

"Daddy's Little Girl" unfolds because Andrea's convicted murderer is paroled and Ellie steadfastly works to prove his guilt which he's now trying to pin on other involved individuals. Ellie was seven at the time of the murder and she was the one who discovered her sister's bludgeoned body. She now becomes the prey as she tries to unearth the truth about that fateful night.

The story is classic Higgins Clark in the sense that it's a woman-in-peril story. I appreciate her insight about what can truly happen within a family when tragedy strikes. It can destroy the love and compassion that family members feel for each other because everybody gets drowned in sorrow and guilt. Years of estrangement may follow and reconciliation does come but only after everyone has a chance at personal as well as familial closure.

For my fellow **James Patterson** fans, I'm about to start his latest work, "The Beach House," which isn't part of the Alex Cross series. It's set in New York's chic summer vacation destination, the Hamptons. I'm excited because Patterson continues to be prolific and highly innovative with his works.

Lani returns to Onstage

MISALUCHA

JULY evenings promise to be more enchanting as Song Goddess Lani Misalucha holds a repeat of her Crossover series in an equally intimate setting. The two-night show, "Lani–The Repeat . . . A Crossover Special," is at 9 p.m. on July 12 and 13 at the posh Le Pavilion, Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

The show will be produced by the same team that mounted Lani's successful six-night Crossover series at Onstage last summer.

Only in her fifth year in the music industry, Lani, who is being managed by the team of Ronnie and Ida Henares of Primeline, Inc., has become one of the most sought-after performers in the local concert scene.

In the repeat of her Onstage concert series, Lani will be directed by Rowell Santiago, with Louie Ocampo as musical director. She will be backed-up by Hotlegs Dancers in her production numbers. Guest artist is singing newcomer Jed Maddela.

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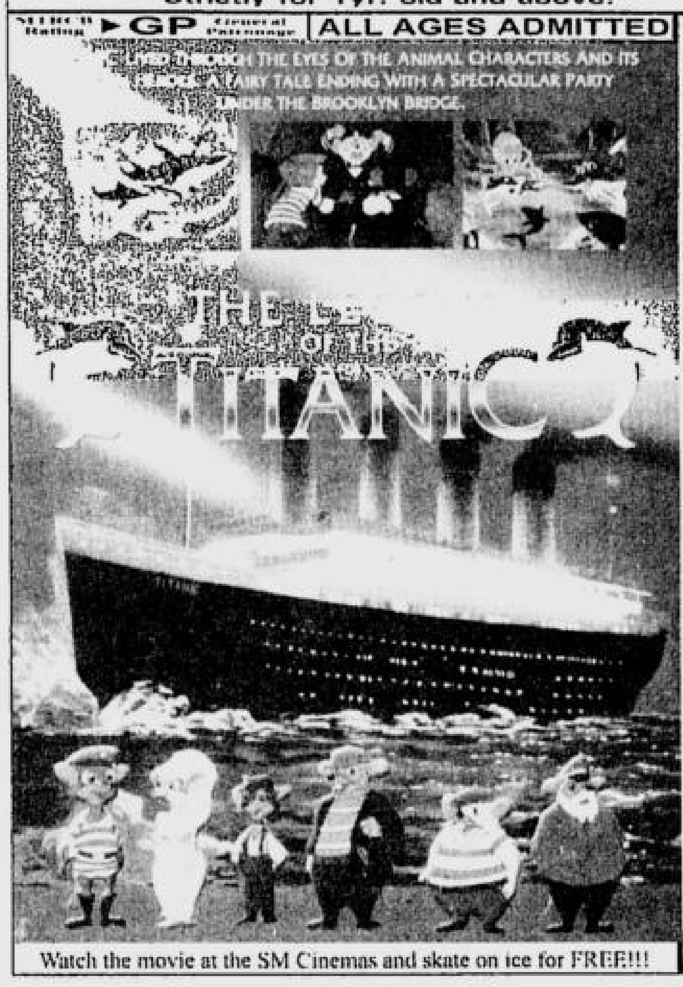
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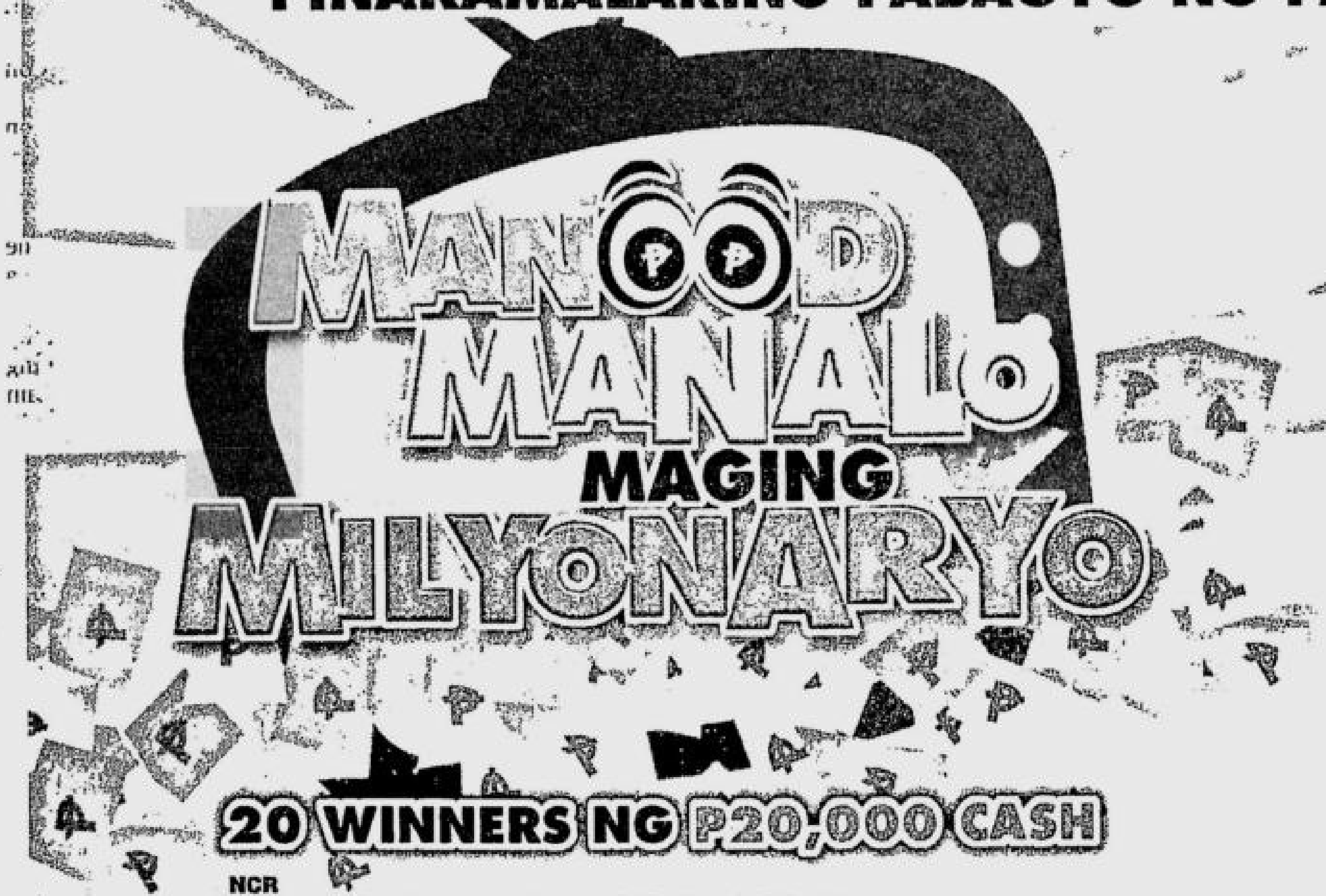

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5. Ochava, Edgardo A.	Tabon 2 Velasquez Compound E. Aldana Las Pinas
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3. Cube, Annabelle Joy S.	c/o Puring Store Brgy Labas West Drive Sta. Rosa Laguna
4. Pasay, Melinda R.	Blk 53 Lot 23 Ph 5-B Brgy Narra III Bulihan Silang Cavite
5. Gonzales, Lourdes G.	399 Marseilla St. Rosario Cavite
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4. Gillado, Ramil E.	Lot 14 Blk 11 Ph 2 Vista Verde Vill. Panacan Davoa City
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4. Apdo, Rosario R.	15 St Jude St. Marietta Romeo VIII Sta Lucia Pasig
5. Amil, Elra C.	Unit 104 Bonavent Malate Bldg 1237 Consuelo St, Malate
6. Torres, Mary Ann B.	401 Real St. Talon Las Pinas
7. Puazo, Analiza N.	L3-A B1 St. Joseph St. North Concha Cruz Circle BF Exec. Las Pinas
8. Valerio, Eiji B.	2956 Dagupan Ext. Gagalangin Tondo
9. Vargas, Florencia S.	2182 F. Munoz St. Singalong Manila
10. Muregcal, Ligaya C.	35 Dragon St. Midtown Subd. San Roque City
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1. Pameron, Veronica C.	Blk 262 L14 Purok 6 Area D Sapang Palay SJDM Bulacan
2. Bengco, Nikko O.	185 Carungcong Subd Sabang Dasmarinas Cavite
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4. Alburan, Mynsia A.	Villa de Calamba P-7 B-134 L46 Lamesa Calamba City
5. Maximo, Alvin Q.	15646 Brgy Malinta Los Banos Laguna
6. Basilio, Normito	San Felipe San Fernando Pampanga
7. Gumapac Sr., Freddie	Look Calamba Laguna
8. Digo, Cesiel C.	93 San Pablo Libertad San Simon Pampanga
9. Mandia, Menandro S.	53 Magsaysay Ave. Victory Norte Santiago City
10. Cupon, Maria Fe D.	8542 O.B. Balong Malaki Los Banos Laguna
VISAYAS	
1. Saballa, Eugenio T.	Brgy Malibago Babaingon Leyte
2. Alcorroque, Marianita	Brgy Mualbual Zumarraga Western Samar
3. Jamito, Lilibeth S.	Purok 3 Brgy Don Felipe Larazabal Ormoc City Leyte
4. Lloro, Teresita C.	San Nicolas Oton Iloilo
5. Romero, Josie H.	222-A Esperaz Ave. Tacloban City
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7. Martinez, Neonita C.	North Capital Rd Park Azucena Brgy6 Bacolod Negros Occ
8. Solitario, Bienvenido G.	Brgy 91 Abucay Tacloban
9. Ansag, Lea	Prk Malipayon Rodriguez Baybay Bacolod
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1. Manos, Arlyn R.	c/o Manos Eclectronic Sabayte St. Iligan City
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3. Manos, Arniel R.	B-Labao St. Iligan City
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PLDT files suit vs First Pacific

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) said yesterday it has filed a suit against parent First Pacific Co. Ltd. in a New York district court for alleged violations of securities laws relating to a $925-million joint venture with the Gokongwei group.

This is the most serious sign to date of the battle between the management led by Manuel V. Pangilinan and the owners of the country's largest telephone company. The two sides parted ways after the Hong Kong-based First Pacific said it planned to sell its controlling stake in PLDT to the Gokongwei family.

It is also the first of a series of onshore and offshore legal stumbling blocks reportedly being prepared by the PLDT board to foil the hostile takeover by the Gokongweis.

PLDT said in a statement that First Pacific failed to disclose a copy of the agreement it entered into with the Gokongwei family.

The 8-page complaint was filed with the US District Court, Southern District of New York, on Wednesday through US legal counsel Sullivan & Cromwell. PLDT has American Depositary Receipts traded in New York.

In Hong Kong, a First Pacific spokesperson said it had not seen any document on the matter and had no comment.

"PLDT believes that this is just one of several violations that First Pacific has made and PLDT is concerned about the negative impact to the company and its shareholders as a result of these violations," Butch Jimenez, PLDT vice president for media and communications, said in the statement.

"First Pacific's failure to disclose the MOA is consistent with its broader disregard of securities law, PLDT's corporate by-laws and shareholder agreements which could create legal liabilities for First Pacific and its board," Jimenez explained.

PLDT said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange last month that it had asked First Pacific to follow up on the statement it made to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on June 11.

It said the disclosure made by First Pacific was "materially deficient" because it excluded a copy of the legally binding memorandum of agreement (MOA) in the exhibits.

The Gokongwei family revealed last month that it had signed an agreement with First Pacific for a joint venture to hold the Hong Kong conglomerate's 24.47-percent stake in PLDT—the single biggest—and a 50.4-percent stake in Metro Pacific Corp.'s main asset, Bonifacio Land Corp;

"First Pacific's refusal to file the MOA even after a written request by PLDT for First Pacific to correct its deficient disclosure has deprived, and will continue to deprive, PLDT shareholders, as well as the marketplace as a whole, of

PLDT/ B4

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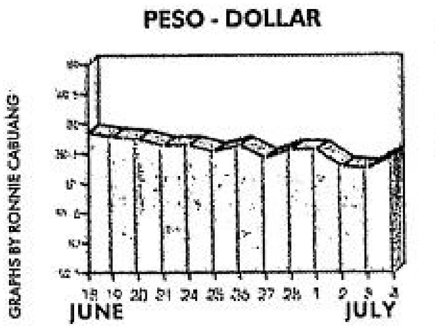

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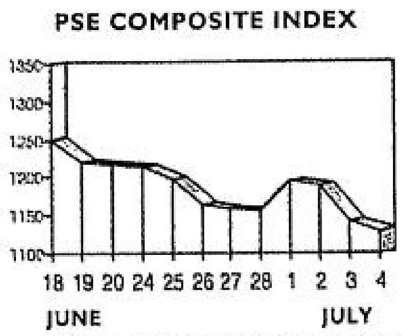
per ounce Hong Kong, July 4, 2002

PLDT drags stocks to fresh 6-month low



(See stock market report on Page B4)

STOCKS ended down again yesterday, hitting a fresh six-month low, as further weakness in the shares of large cap Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) dragged on the broad market, traders said.

The sharp uptick in the budget deficit for the first five months of this year also continued to weigh on sentiment, they said.

On Wednesday, the government announced the deficit for the first five months had ballooned to P107.5 billion causing a more than 4 percent sell-off in the main index.

Yesterday, the main index ended down 4.95 points, or 0.43 percent, at 1,136.60 points, its lowest close since ending at 1,129.41 on Dec. 19 last year.

Turnover shrank to P270.91 million from Wednesday's hefty P1.23 billion when investors, spooked by the size of the budget deficit, rushed to cut their portfolios. But two-thirds of Wednesday's value turnover was accounted for a block sale of CEU shares.

"The fall in PLDT accounts for much of the market's slide given the magnitude of the deficit, that is also continuing to contribute to overall market weakness," Asiasec Equities senior analyst Oliver Piana said.

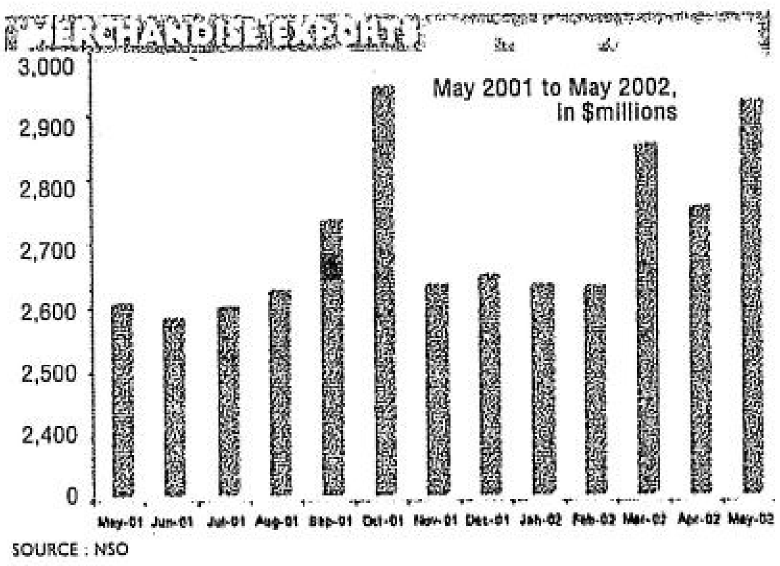
The market was up for much of the session, aided by bargain-hunting in counters that have fallen to near one-year or six-month lows.

However, it was not enough to offset a surge in selling in PLDT toward the close on news that management had filed a lawsuit in New York against main shareholder First Pacific Co. for alleged securities laws violations relating to a stake sale agreement with the Gokongwei family.

At the start of the session, PLDT also came under pressure on news that international ratings agency Moody's had downgraded its outlook

PLDT/ B5

Exports continue to recover, up 12% in May



SOURCE : NSO

A CONTINUED rebound in electronic shipments boosted Philippine export earnings by 12.2 percent in May from a year ago, posting a double-digit growth for the second consecutive month and confirming the reversal of a 14-month contraction triggered by the global slowdown last year.

Although the expansion for the month of May was slower than the three-year high of 22.4 percent in April, analysts said this was a sign that the manufacturing sector would make a better contribution to economic growth for the rest of the year.

Analysts also said the influx of US dollars from increased exports should provide additional liquidity that could support the peso in the foreign exchange market.

The National Statistics Office reported that the country's export receipts hit $2.92 billion from $2.6 billion in May last year. This brought the five-month export earnings to $13.77 billion or 2.7 percent higher than the year-ago level.

Receipts from electronic components, which accounted for 57 percent of total earnings for the month, surged by 24.2 percent.

Other top exports were articles of apparel and clothing accessories, woodcraft and furniture, metal components and other products manufactured from materials imported on consignment basis.

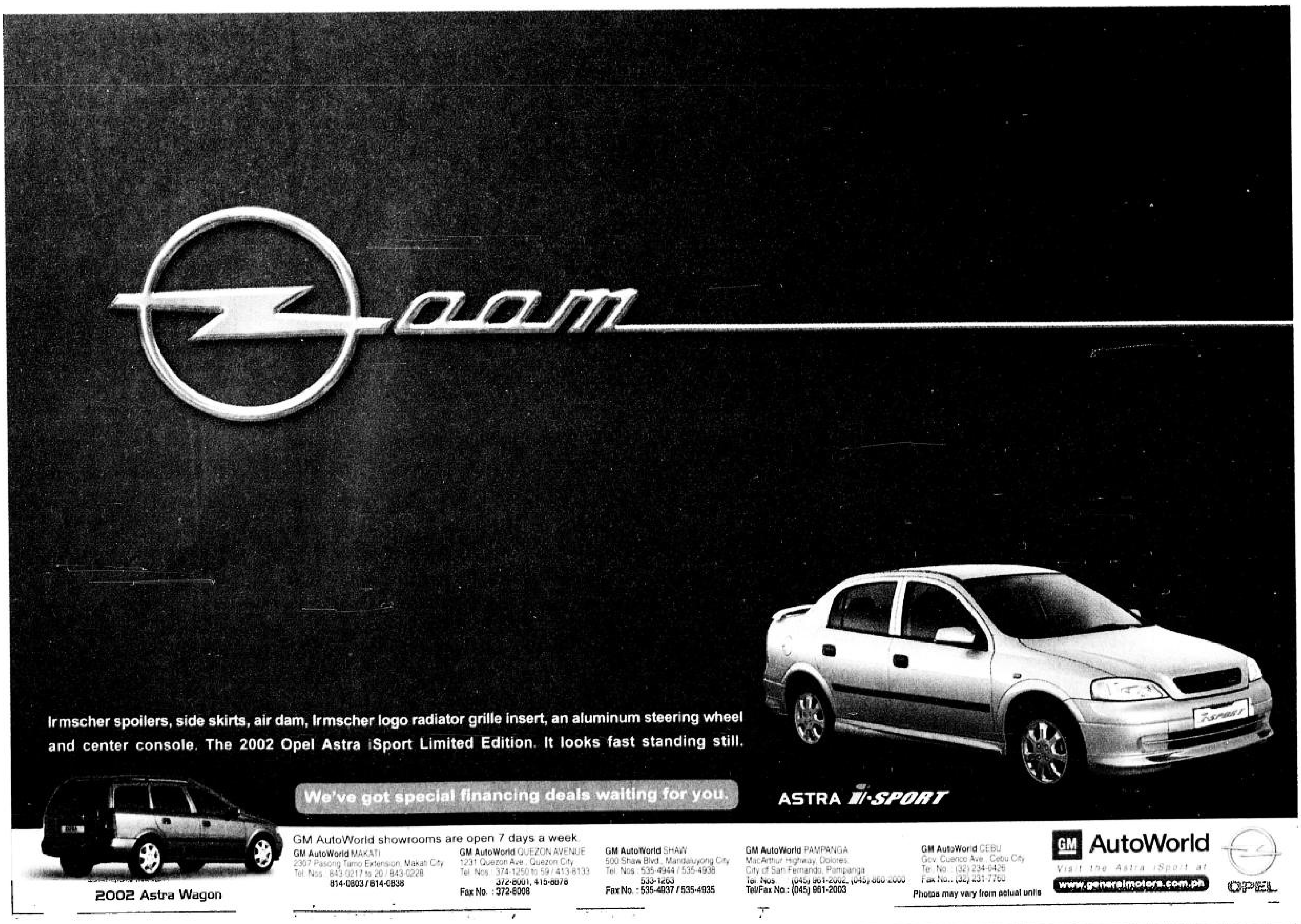
Receipts from manufactured goods, including electronics, accounted for 89.9 percent of the total receipts, rising by 14.8 percent to $2.62 billion while income from agro-based products accounted for 4 percent of total revenues.

The United States accounted for 24.5 percent or the biggest bulk of the country's export earnings for the month while receipts stood 3.4 percent better than the level a year ago.

Japan ranked second among the country's biggest markets with a 15.3-percent share, with purchases rising by 6 percent.

Other top export destinations were the Netherlands, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia,

EXPORTS/ B2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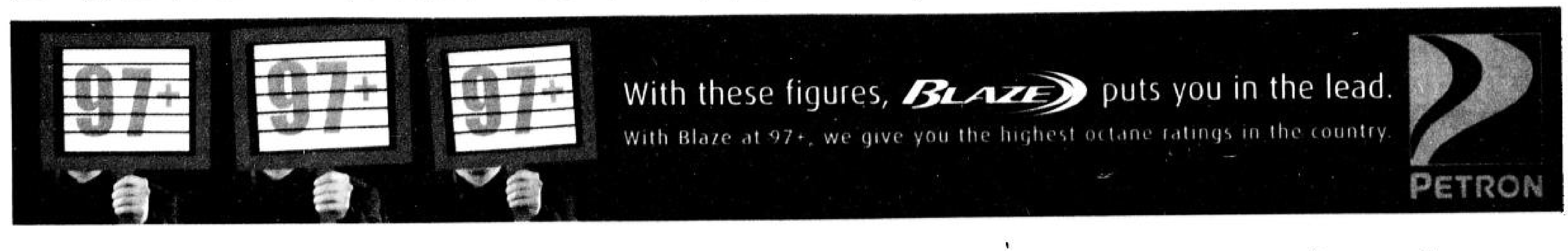
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Napocor chief seeks probe of $450-M CBK power project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. president on-leave Jesus Alcordo yesterday said he was recommending a "full-blown investigation" of the implementation of the $450-million Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydropower project.

"There are allegations of wrongdoings (in this project) and I think they have basis," Alcordo said in an interview.

He said that he would make the formal recommendation for the National Bureau of Investigation or any other agency not involved in the project to do the probe as soon as Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. arrived from a tour of duty abroad.

Alcordo said he was wary of Napocor having to pay the project contractor $2 million (about P100 million) a month in capacity recovery fees when some rehabilitation work on the Kalayaan Unit 1 was not finished.

"I will urge Secretary Perez to order a suspension of payments until after a project audit has been completed," Alcordo said.

He said Napocor has not forwarded any payment, but that the power firm had received a letter of demand for such.

The Napocor chief said the power firm was in a quandary since a certificate of completion and a waiver on claims has been issued to CBK contractors Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona SA of Argentina and Edison Mission Energy of the United States.

"To compound the matter, it was the National Transmission Corp. which issued the certificate and the waiver when Transco is not even a party to the CBK project," Alcordo said.

He said this was a mystery to him since the documents were issued when he was already on leave.

"P100 million a month may be relatively small, but there is a great possibility that there are other goings on like these," he added.

Cause oriented groups had tagged the CBK contract as the biggest and most onerous of the deals of about 40 independent power producers.

Alcordo clarified that he was not pushing for a probe on the contract but its implementation only.

MANGO PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo examines the revolutionary Modified Atmosphere Packaging (MAP) for Philippine mangoes during simple awarding rites at Malacañang. The packaging technology, developed by the Ministry of Science and Technology of Korea and the Korean Food Research Institute, will extend the shelf life of Philippine mangoes by 22 days. Looking on (from left) are Hyung Woo Park of the KFRI, Citem executive director Felicidad V. Tan-Co, Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino and Agriculture Undersecretary Ernesto Ordoñez.

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Ombudsman clears BSP chief in Urban case

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has dismissed the criminal complaint filed by Teodoro C. Borlongan, former president of Urban Bank Inc., against Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura and other BSP officials.

In dismissing the criminal cases, the Office of the Ombudsman said "it finds no probable cause to indict respondents for the crime charged."

The Ombudsman likewise dismissed the related administrative case filed by Borlongan against Buenaventura and BSP General Counsel Juan de Zuniga Jr. However, the Ombudsman said the other respondent BSP officials, namely Alberto V. Reyes, Dolores Yuvienco, Candon Guerrero and Tomas Aure are administratively liable for "simple neglect of duty."

Buenaventura said he was pleased with the dismissal of the Urban Bank-related criminal and administrative cases filed against him and the BSP general counsel as this affirmed that the closure of Urban Bank was in accordance with law.

Buenaventura added that the Ombudsman decision against the other BSP respondents was premised on a "simple neglect of duty" and he believed there would be sufficient grounds to seek its reconsideration.

Yuchengco firms merge

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE YUCHENGCO group is infusing seven privately held subsidiaries into publicly listed holding firm House of Investments.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, HI said it would absorb Honda Cars Quezon City Inc., Isuzu Manila Inc., HI-Daiwa House Philippines Inc., Satellite Properties Estate Corp., Zamboanga Gold Mining Corp., Zamboanga Wood Products Inc. and HI-Realty Corp.

HI already holds several businesses including construction firm EEI Corp. and part of the Mapua Institute of Technology.

Analysts said the backdoor listing of these unlisted subsidiaries could allow the Yuchengco group to raise fresh funds.

"For example, if the buy-in or merger is in exchange for shares, HI will issue new shares to the Yuchengco group in exchange for the companies and the group will have more shares. So they can sell some of the shares to the open market," an analyst said.

HI was originally incorporated in 1959 as an investment bank. It went public in 1962 and has since then diversified into three main businesses: consumer finance, construction and infrastructure/other services. It now has 21 subsidiaries and affiliate companies.

Exports . . .

From page B1

Germany, People's Republic of China and Republic of Korea.

Equitable PCI Bank chief market strategist Michael Ricafort said the slight tapering of exports did not come as a surprise as the appreciation of Southeast Asian currencies including the peso had somehow tempered demand for exports.

But since the peso has been stabilizing recently, Ricafort said Philippine exports would continue to do well. He upgraded his projection on the country's export growth to an average of 5-10 percent this year, or much better than the flat to 5 percent forecast earlier.

"For the rest of the year, export growth will help the Philippine economy as a major source of growth, which will allow us to achieve the government's target of 4-4.5 percent GDP (gross domestic product) for the year," Ricafort said.

"This is one of the bright spots in the economy and we also have to consider the fact that there is recovery in the United States," he said.

Although US economic growth is expected to slow down to 2.5 percent in the second quarter from 6.1 percent in the first quarter, Ricafort said other indicators like personal income and consumption showed that a recovery was still possible. *Doris Dumlao*

Gov't to get Bulletin

THE ESTATE of the late Bulletin owner Hans Menzi has offered majority control of the English daily plus P1.8 billion cash to the government in exchange for the dropping of sequestration charges against the estate.

According to the grapevine, Menzi estate administrator and long-time Bulletin corporate secretary Manuel Montecillo has already met twice with PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac and that the latter and the entire PCGG board were reportedly "enthusiastic" that the 16-year-old case will finally be settled.

The disputed Menzi shares represent about 72 percent of Bulletin, and the estate has formally proposed giving up claim on 53.5 percent in exchange for retaining only the balance of 18.5 percent.

In addition, the Menzi estate has agreed to turn over some P1.8 billion in cash dividends that the 53.5-percent bloc accumulated since the 1987 sequestration. That pile of cash is allegedly being kept in Philtrust, the small commercial bank controlled by Don Emilio Yap, the current Bulletin publisher.

A draft of the compromise agreement was already submitted to the PCGG on Monday.

Despite being enthusiastic about the settlement, Yorac, however, has made it clear to Montecillo that she herself would abstain from the voting, considering that her previous law firm still represents Yap and the Bulletin.

Yorac's partner, President Aquino's chief legal counsel Adolf Azcuna, is Yap's counsel on the sequestration case, in addition to being president of the Yap-controlled Manila Hotel.

The Manila Hotel is also being accused by GSIS of non-payment of a now about P600-million loan it obtained from the government workers' fund.

Yap is one of the *ninongs* in the recent wedding of GMA son Mikey Arroyo, with Manila Hotel catering to the Malacañang reception.

Delgados' new empire

AFTER selling Islacom, the Delgados are back in the telecom business, this time in Saipan.

Guam Gov. Carl Gutierrez, who has supervisory control over the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands to which Saipan belongs, has backed down on his original opposition to the sale of the Saipan telecom franchise to a Delgado-led consortium.

The Saipan Tribune reported that Gutierrez withdrew his opposition on June 26, only nine days after submitting his contra petition to the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C.

"I have determined that it is not in the public interest to oppose this transfer of control," the Saipan Tribune quoted the Guam governor as saying.

The Delgado-led Pacific Telecom Inc. consortium won last year's bidding for Verizon Pacifica, whose franchise includes domestic landline operation in Saipan, as well as satellite earth station, cable landing and cellular phone service.

Accounting daffynitions

IN THE LIGHT of the multibillion-dollar accounting scandals that are now roiling corporate America and the Big Five, the Arthur Andersen Council on Corporate Governance has proposed a redefinition of key accounting terms to suit the changing times.

Some of the new definitions, according to ex-SGV partner S. Cuttle Butt:

Ebitda—Earnings Before I Tricked the Dumb Auditor
Ebit—Earnings Before Irregularities and Tampering
CEO—Chief Embezzlement Officer
CFO—Corporate Fraud Officer
EPS—Eventual Prison Sentence
Arthur Andersen's secret audit process

Metrobank net income up 50% in first half

METROBANK, the country's largest bank, reported an unaudited net income of P1.54 billion for the first half of 2002.

This was P515.04 million or 50 percent higher than the bank's net income of P1.03 billion for the same period last year.

Metrobank senior vice president Bernardito Lapuz said the improved profitability was brought primarily by a P371.10 million or 8.28-percent increase in the bank's net interest income.

He said other operating income rose by P736.43 million while operating expenses increased by only 6.22 percent as efficient cost controls were continually employed.

Income before taxes and provisions for probable losses amounted to P2.3 billion, up 52 percent from last year's P1.52 billion. Provisions for probable losses were only slightly higher than last year while taxes went up by P299.66 million.

Total resources amounted to P374.99 billion as of June 30, 2002, down by P9.04 billion from P384.02 billion as of Dec. 31, 2001.

Lapuz attributed this to the decline in deposit levels from P297.74 billion to P287.26 billion on account of matured dollar-denominated floating rate certificates of deposit (FRCDs) amounting to $140 million and the shift by depositors to retail treasury bonds (RTBs) in June 2002.

Metrobank's total capital now stood at P49.4 billion after cash dividend payments of P653.46 million in April 2002. The increase of P797 million was 1.64 percent higher than the bank's total capital of P48.60 billion as of Dec. 31, 2001.

COCKTALES

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Heard through the grapevine

PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco has acquired the stake of businesswoman Evelyn Singson in Asian Hospital, following Singson's irreconcilable differences with medical director George Garcia and the Singapore-based partners.

* * *

The Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. is threatening to cut off electricity of the popular Le Soufflé starting tonight unless chef-owner Billy King settles more than five months of back rental. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

OVERSIGHT BODY FINDING

Drug import scheme a flop

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PARALLEL Drug Importation (PDI) program of the departments of trade and industry and of health is a flop, according to a congressional oversight committee tasked to monitor the Executive branch's compliance to the pledges made by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her 2001 State of the Nation Address (Sona).

This was revealed by Albay Rep. and oversight committee chair Jose Sarte Salceda who said the DTI and the DOH should obtain a P5-billion allocation for the purchase of cheap drugs from India and explore other options under the new policies adopted by the World Trade Organization during the Doha round last year.

The PDI is a pet project of Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II who has advocated for a reduction in the prices of medicine in the country since his term as a member of the House of Representatives and which he pursued after his appointment by then President Estrada in his current post.

In his report, Salceda said the PDI hardly caused a ripple in the market since the volume of importation (P75 million) accounted for a measly 0.16 percent of the total turnover in the pharmaceutical industry in 1999.

Roxas had previously promised to make the drugs availability to increase from 30 to 300 outlets, including private drugstores and hospitals, and jack up the list of PDI drugs from 8 to 30.

A survey conducted by the oversight committee showed that while prices of some medicine were cut, the reduction was nowhere near the 50 percent crowed by the DTI and the DOH, which the President promised in her 2001 Sona. A check on the inventory of hospitals where the PDI drugs are available showed that these were sold at a very slow pace.

The survey also showed that majority of respondents were led to believe that the DTI and the DOH's promise to bring down prices applied to all drugstores, both government- or privately owned. Salceda said the DTI and DOH qualification that the PDI drugs were available only in selected government hospitals and outlets was not acceptable to the committee and the

DRUG/B4

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Let's combat drug abuse in the workplace

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

THE DRUG problem in the Philippines has become extremely alarming for it has reached unprecedented scope and levels of frequency. Dangerous Drugs Board Executive Director Bernardo Lastimoso, speaking before the 1,200-member PMAP (Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) in its June general membership meeting, reported that no less than 5.4 million Filipinos were hooked on drugs. The average age of drug users is 27. It used to be 19 in the '70s and 23 in the '80s.

The average age of drug users indicates that they are normally of working age and, therefore, the drug menace is now confronting the workplace. If employers and the government are not quick to address this problem, a grave and imminent threat is being poised against the safety and security of corporate lives and assets as well as the quality of products and services. This is an extremely serious challenge confronting businessmen and personnel managers.

The question of human rights

Many of us are of the view that a manager cannot just order an employee showing visible signs of drug use to submit to an on-the-spot drug test. We have been brainwashed to believe that such a compulsory blood examination would violate the worker's human rights, especially if he invokes his right against self-incrimination. I dare say, this belief is wrong.

The crucial issue is this: May employers instruct a worker to proceed to the company clinic and have himself examined by the physician? We strongly contend that the answer is yes. And we hasten to add that in the event the worker will refuse to comply, he can be charged with willful disobedience to a lawful order given by a superior in relation to his work, or what we call insubordination.

The order is lawful

There is a new law, Republic Act No. 9165, the Comprehensive Drugs Act of 2002, repealing RA 6425, the Dangerous Drug Act of 1972. Under this law, the penalties for drug use, drug sale and trafficking were increased many times over. The enforcement system has been strengthened and the opportunities for rehab expanded.

Under Article III, Section 36, Paragraph (d) of the law, "officers and employees of public and private offices, whether domestic or overseas, shall be subjected to undergo a random drug test xxx." Any officer or employee found positive for use of dangerous drugs shall be dealt with administratively, which shall be a ground for suspension or termination, subject to the provision of Article 282 of the Labor Code and pertinent provisions of the Civil Service Law.

The order is reasonable

A compulsory drug test ordered by management is a reasonable exercise of management prerogatives. It is a necessary ingredient of running a business, especially if the company is engaged in transportation or food, or highly sensitive products and services, where the employer is duty-bound to exercise extraordinary diligence in the choice and supervision of personnel. Failure in which, the employer may be held liable for criminal negligence resulting to death or injury to third persons, or he may have to pay damages as a result of his drug user-workers' fault or imprudence.

No human rights lawyer or labor leader can possibly make a case of harassment or unfair labor practice, if the only action of management is to take utmost precaution to safeguard the lives of its other personnel and customers and the quality of its products and services. An order to take a drug test is one such necessary precaution. Disobeying such a management order is thus an act of insubordination.

The spirit of the law

Article V of the law, Section 4, boldly declares: "It is deemed a policy of the state to promote drug-free workplaces using a tripartite approach xxx," that is labor, management and the government collaborating to fight a common enemy, the drug menace.

The law specifies that "such programs shall include the mandatory drafting and adoption of company policies against drug use in the workplace in close consultation and coordination with the DOLE, labor and employment organizations, HRD managers and such other private sector organizations"

Management and labor

It thus becomes the duty of management to formulate drug rules to govern employee behavior related to this problem. HR managers should move quickly and formulate policies and guidelines on this. We just have to respect the right of the workers to participate as enshrined in the 1987 Constitution. The right of participation cannot be used by the unions to obstruct the employer's effort to comply with the law.

The unions, under Section 49 of the law, are mandated to "include in their CBAs (collective bargaining agreement), or any similar agreements, joint continuing programs and information campaign for the laborers xxx with the end in view of achieving a drug-free workplace. This is pursuant to the constitutional principle of joint responsibility between labor and capital."

Courts and lawyers, beware

I know of a seasoned HR practitioner who ordered a compulsory drug test in a multinational company operating in Cagayan de Oro. A local lawyer, using political pressure, was able to get a TRO (temporary restraining order) and my friend is now facing a case in court. This is an occupational hazard that occurred prior to the approval this year of RA 9165. But under this new law, such politics and pressures should give way to public policy.

We are urging lawyers and judges to take cognizance of this new law and to cooperate in pursuing the legal mandate to combat drug addition. Remember, drug use can be the proximate cause of murder, rape, arson, terrorism, kidnapping and even plunder. And lawyers and judges as well as HR managers can be its victims.

Let's fight drug abuse

Evil triumphs because good guys do nothing. The others are subjected to TROs. I call upon PMAP members to declare war against drug abuse in the workplace. The best defense is offense. And the time is now. We've to move fast and smart.

LOAN OR BOND FLOAT

PNOC raising $175M in funds

By Elena R. Torrijos

STATE-OWNED Philippine National Oil Company will borrow $175 million to refinance a three-year loan from Citibank N.A. that will fall due in March 2004.

PNOC last week asked foreign and local investment banks to submit proposals for the underwriting of a $175-million loan or bond float that would be available for take-out on Sept. 23.

The state oil firm said it preferred a structure that would offer "flexibility for prepayment without penalty." The maturity of the issue, it said, should be 10 to 15 years.

The deadline for the submission of the underwriting proposals was set for July 12.

The Department of Finance has approved the refinancing of PNOC's syndicated loan, which carries an all-in yield of 330 points over Libor, and its plan to raise $175 million.

PNOC's planned loan is one of the several borrowings that government-owned firms have in the pipeline. The Power Sector Asset and Liabilities Management Corp., for one, is borrowing as much as $750 million to finance the restructuring of National Power Corp. The loan will be partially guaranteed by the Asian Development Bank.

Napocor, itself, also intends to borrow around $600 million this year with a guarantee from the national government on the debt.

The government's announcement that the budget deficit in the first five months of the year hit P107.5 billion, or only P22.5 billion away from the full-year ceiling of P130 billion, dampened investor appetite for Philippine debt paper. Bond spreads also widened by 20 to 25 basis points.

Bankers say that loans, instead of bond floats, will allow the government to secure better prices for its borrowings given the liquidity of the domestic banking sector.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas recently borrowed $675 million under a three-year loan facility arranged by seven local and foreign banks at 190 basis points, or lower than the 270-basis point spread on its previous borrowing.

San Miguel group posts ₱2.3B in profit

SAN Miguel Corp. yesterday said its consolidated net income for the first five months of this year reached P2.3 billion, backed by improved revenues, particularly in its beer operations.

San Miguel president and COO Ramon Ang said the year-to-date net income, excluding the company's acquisitions that diluted the company's performance, was P3.2 billion, or 18 percent better than year-ago level.

The company did not give comparative figures but said in a statement that it recorded a net income of P625 million in May alone, up 9 percent year-on-year. The amount included contributions from newly acquired Pure Foods Corp. and Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils.

San Miguel acquired Coca-Cola last year, as well as Pure Foods Corp. It also acquired Cosmos Bottling Corp. in a transaction finalized in January.

Consolidated revenue for May hit P12.7 billion, bringing year-to-date sales to P54.1 billion, 28 percent higher than last year's comparative figure of P42.1 billion.

Operating income for the month also increased 19 percent to P1.22 billion.

La Tondeña Distillers Inc., a subsidiary, posted a 42-percent increase in net income in the first five months of this year to P702 million.

In its core beer operations, the firm posted sales of P11.2 billion for the five-month period, up 2 percent year-on-year.

Operating income in the beer segment climbed 3 percent year-on-year to P2.2 billion.

International beer operations also improved, with beer sales reaching $93 million in the first five months. *Elena R. Torrijos*

DISCLOSURES

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 60,300 of its own shares at prices ranging from P32 to P32.50 per share.

* * *

ELECTED independent director of **Benpres Holdings Corp.** was Washington Sycip.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of **Manila Electric Co.** were Carlos Dominguez and Octavio Victor Espiritu.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of **Semirara Mining Corp.** were Victor Macalincag and Jose Antonio Leviste.

* * *

HOUSE of Investments Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 5, 2:30 p.m., at Rooms 507-508 of Yuchengco Institute for Advanced Studies, Tower II of RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of June 5 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Properties Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 24, 2 p.m., at the Mactan Room of Edsa Shangri-La, Mandaluyong City. Only stockholders of record as of June 21 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 24, 4 p.m., at the VIP Room of Sta. Ana Park, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of June 28 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

BSP's bancassurance policy seen to lure more foreign investments

NEW YORK Life Insurance (Philippines) said it was fully supporting Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision to approve a more liberal interpretation of the law on the sale of non-deposit financial products through banks, also known as bancassurance.

According to George May, New York Life Insurance Philippines president and chief executive officer, the move reflects the Monetary Board's resolve to support the liberalization of the financial services sector and to make the Philippines a more attractive destination of foreign investments.

New York Life, along with several other large insurance firms, earlier scored a move by the BSP to limit bancassurance tie-ups to commercial banks and their subsidiaries.

In a statement, New York Life Phils. said the reconsideration of the Monetary Board's earlier stance spelled good news for both local and foreign players in the Philippine insurance industry. The new interpretation of the law literally expands cross-selling of policies to include even banks with only 5-percent stake in affiliate insurance companies. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Drug import scheme a flop

From page B3

public.

Salceda said the DTI and DOH's failure could be partly blamed on the meager budget allocated for the ambitious program because most of its funding was uncertain and it depended largely on the budget of the DOH. He said a substantial budget of P5 billion was needed for the PDI to reach its objective.

Salceda said the PDI program's proponents had also put unrealistic goals which, even if they achieved them, were unsustainable.

He also questioned why the DTI has not exercised some of the options available under the WTO Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health which now allow national governments to force pharmaceutical firms to open up their medicine formulas, including patented drugs, to other drug makers.

The Doha declaration states that each WTO member has the right to grant compulsory licenses, the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licenses are granted, and the right to determine what constitutes a national emergency or public health crises such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, July 4, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	18	18	105,800
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45.5	46	43	44	568,200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30.5	31	30	30	224,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.34	1.34	51,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33	32.5	33	557,200
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	28,500
Security Bank Corp.	14	14	14	14	4,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	20	20	20	20	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Fist Metro Invest. Corp.	218	218	218	218	10
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1030	1030	1030	260
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.68	0.65	0.66	3,250,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	530	530	530	530	9,580
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	500,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
Piltel	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	1,070,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	350	355	340	340	164,870
Ivantage Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.31	0.31	960,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	17,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	12,600
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	30	29.5	29.5	211,700
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.74	2,063,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	136,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	7,700,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.18	1.2	500,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	1,058,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	107,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	19,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	423,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32.5	15,100
RFM Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	51,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	48	48	32,300
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	55	53.5	54.5	596,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	4,502,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.34	2.34	71,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.32	1,760,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	210,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	42,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	5,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.0975	0.0975	500,000
J G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	272,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.71	2,360,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.5	0.39	0.5	180,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	4,980,000
Music Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	340,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	460,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	1,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.7	4.7	4	4	7,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.32	0.36	30,000
Pryce Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	5,200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	70,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24	24	24	194,100
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	600	635	600	635	210
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	17,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	9,351,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	430,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	820,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	3,910,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.28	2.28	4,239,000
SM Development Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.82	0.82	220,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	1,479,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.18	0.18	510,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	550,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	8,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0026	0.0026	26,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	1,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.33	0.4	0.33	0.4	120,000

CURRENCIES

July 4, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.019472	1.000000	50.7600
Japan	Yen	0.008502	0.008340	0.4233
United Kingdom	Pound	1.557447	1.527700	77.5461
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130709	0.128212	6.5080
Switzerland	Franc	0.682834	0.669792	33.9986
Canada	Dollar	0.665539	0.652827	33.1375
Singapore	Dollar	0.576625	0.565611	28.7104
Australia	Dollar	0.571133	0.560224	28.4370
Bahrain	Dinar	2.704313	2.652661	134.6491
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271860	0.266667	13.5360
Brunei	Dollar	0.574998	0.564016	28.6295
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024542	0.024073	1.2219
UAE	Dirham	0.277596	0.272294	13.8216
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000838	0.0425
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.980900	49.7905
Brazil	Real	0.355341	0.348554	17.6926
Denmark	Kroner	0.134566	0.131996	6.7001
India	Rupee	0.020921	0.020521	1.0416
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268318	0.263193	13.3597
Mexico	New Peso	0.102433	0.100477	5.1002
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498520	0.488998	24.8215
Norway	Kroner	0.136277	0.133674	6.7853
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017006	0.016681	0.8467
South Africa	Rand	0.100552	0.098631	5.0065
Sweden	Kroner	0.109812	0.107715	5.4676
Syria	Pound	0.019834	0.019455	0.9875
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030523	0.029940	1.5198
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000787	0.000772	0.0392

PLDT files suit . . .

From page B1

information concerning the details of the transfer of a significant block of PLDT's shares . . . in serious violation of . . . the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934," the statement said.

The petition cited the First Pacific group's "selective disclosure" of its agreement with Gokongwei as a violation of the US securities laws, noting that the requirement was to file complete agreements—not summaries—"so that filing persons may not engage in self-serving disclosure while omitting to tell the investing public about other important terms or conditions of such agreements."

PLDT's request for disclosure from First Pacific came after the local SEC asked the Gokongwei group to make public the provisions of the deal it struck with First Pacific.

The Gokongweis turned down the SEC's request, saying the group was not a listed entity and not required to report the transaction according to SEC rules.

The PLDT management is opposed to the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal and is trying to get the support of shareholder NTT Communications, a unit of Japan's Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp., for a possible management-led buyout of a controlling stake in the firm.

Likewise cited as respondents in the case aside from First Pacific itself were seven other First Pacific affiliates: Holland Pacific N.V., Intalink BV, Larouge BV, Metro Pacific Holdings Inc., Metro Pacific Investments Ltd., Metro Pacific Resources Inc. and Metro Pacific Assets Holdings Inc. ***With a report from Reuters***

UK official says RP, Thai plea for tax perks gaining support

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES' and Thailand's lobbying for increased access of their canned tuna exports to Europe is gaining support from members of the European Union, according to British Trade and Industry Minister Alan Johnson.

Johnson told reporters yesterday that a number of EU members were moving toward backing the expansion of the coverage of the duty-free perks on canned tuna from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to include similar products from the Philippines and Thailand. Johnson, however, refused to name the EU countries supporting the cause of the Philippines and Thailand. Johnson said he met yesterday with Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino to reiterate the British government's decision to back the country's bid to gain wider access for its canned tuna exports to Europe.

The EU members can only make amendments to the special trade pact, which would allow the 77 ACP countries to export tuna to the 15-member EU under a quota system and zero tariffs, after unanimous vote. Spain and France have been identified as the main opponent of the ACP perks coverage expansion.

The Philippines and Thailand are batting to lower duties on their canned tuna exports from 24 percent at present to between zero and 5 percent. The Philippines ships roughly 5 million cases of canned tuna every year, or 60 percent of its total production capacity.

In a speech before members of the Makati Business Club and British Chamber of Commerce, Johnson said market access was a key component to achieving sustainable development especially among poor and developing countries. He said market access was important particularly in agriculture where most of the poor people were dependent on their income and where protectionist barriers were higher than industrial goods.

BSP expects June inflation to remain stable at 3.4-3.7%

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said the inflation rate in June was expected to remain at a range of 3.4 percent to 3.7 percent given the stable food and petroleum prices during the period.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, however, said the El Niño dry spell which was expected to hit the country later this year might pose risk on consumer prices in the coming months.

The inflation rate averaged at 3.6 percent in the first five months, which was well within the 4.5 to 5.5 percent target for the year.

Buenaventura said that food prices, which account for the bulk of the consumer price index, remained stable in June.

Oil prices have so far increased by almost P1.30 per liter this year, including the 35-centavo per liter adjustment in May. The series of oil price increases in the previous months put pressure particularly on transport fares.

The El Niño phenomenon is feared to adversely affect farm output. When agricultural production drops, food prices and inflation go up.

The farm sector including agriculture, fishery and forestry grew by 3.9 percent in the first quarter, slightly outpacing the growth in gross domestic product in the same period.

The steady growth in agriculture provided the economy with the much-needed boost particularly when exports fell by 15.7 percent.

Still, Buenaventura said that for the meantime, the policy-making Monetary Board had kept the overnight rates unchanged at 7 percent and 9.25 percent for borrowing and lending, respectively.

"The board believes that inflation will remain well-contained in the near term. This is based on expectations of favorable food supply, broad stability in the exchange rate, and the presence of spare industrial capacity," said Buenaventura in a statement.

He stressed that the benign inflation outlook for now was not without risks.

Aside from concerns over the impact of El Niño, monetary authorities are also keenly monitoring the movement of world crude oil prices as well as the adjustment in electricity and water rates.

Business commits ₱1.3B for poverty reduction

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PRIVATE sector has committed P1.3 billion in fresh funds to help the government's direct poverty reduction initiatives over the next two years.

The move aims to make the Philippines a role model in the promotion of corporate social responsibility in the Asian region.

In a presentation made to President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday, Maria Aurora Tolentino, chair of the League of Corporate Foundations, said the administration could count on the private sector for financial muscle in leading the war against poverty.

Commitment

The commitment was made in behalf of the league's more than 50 member-foundations and business associations, which were represented in the first Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility hosted by the Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. Asian Institute of Management Center for Corporate Social Responsibility.

In the last five years, Tolentino said the local private sector has contributed a total of P7.6 billion for poverty reduction. The amount, she said, went primarily into basic human development services, livelihood or income generation and asset reform.

Impressive

Forum chair Ramon del Rosario Jr. said he was overwhelmed by the interest generated by the Asian forum. Out of the 450 delegates, about 90 were foreigners.

"People from Hong Kong and Singapore went out of their way to tell me that they were really impressed at how Philippine companies were so open to responding to calls to address social issues because to foreigners, those things were unheard of. In their places of origin, you can appeal all you want and they will tell you that the role of a corporation is simply to make a profit," Del Rosario said.

Philippine Business for Social Progress chair Manuel Pangilinan who delivered the closing remarks, said corporations had to manage their affairs well to be able to share to others the fruits of their labor.

"For a company to do good, it must first do well," he said.

Pangilinan said companies should protect the rights of shareholders, appoint a competent board of directors and management, follow strict auditing procedures and ensure accurate and timely disclosures to the public.

Global citizens

Vicky Garchitorena, managing director of Ayala Corp. and president of Ayala Foundation Inc., said business had an important role to play in spreading the benefits of development.

"First and foremost, our companies' commitment to being global corporate citizens is about the way we run our own businesses. In the Philippines, that includes basic issues like paying all the necessary taxes and duties, giving fair compensation to workers, engaging in sustainable business practices," Garchitorena said.

"Second, our relationships with key stakeholders are fundamental to our success inside and outside our companies. Third, the ultimate leadership for corporate citizenship rests with us as chief executives, chairmen and board of directors," she said.

Chito Sobrepena, president of Metrobank Foundation, said: "We're very happy that over the last three years, the corporate governance philosophy has been getting a lot of attention among the public, private and non-government organization sectors."

PLDT . . .

From page B1

for the firm to negative from stable on worries about delays in its debt refinancing.

It has now lost over 18 percent of its value since the start of the year and is off 39 percent since May 30 when First Pacific confirmed it was in talks to dispose of its PLDT holding.

Traders saw little chance of a reversal of fortunes for the market in the immediate future.

"In the near-term, the downward bias will continue given that prevailing negative factors, the deficit, PLDT and politics, will persist . . . I think there is a possibility our next support will be around 1,100 to 1,080 points," Plana said.

Properties came under some pressure with fears that government curbs on spending in the second half to keep the deficit under control might crimp economic growth.

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Dollar finds reprieve on Wall Street rise

TOKYO—The dollar gained against the euro and the yen in thin Asian trade on Thursday as investors adjusted their positions before a US holiday, using Wall Street's brighter performance as an excuse.

But many traders said it was only a matter of time before the greenback met heavy selling pressure again, given that US stock prices have been volatile and were generally on a downtrend.

On Wednesday, the tech-laced Nasdaq Composite Index put on 1.65 percent, but only after sinking to five-year lows over the past two sessions. The Dow rose 0.52 percent after three straight days of falls.

Trade was thin ahead of the Fourth of July Independence Day holiday and probably exaggerated the moves, dealers said.

"It's short-covering ahead of the holiday," said Noriyuki Kato, head of foreign exchange at ING in Tokyo. "We are not in a situation to take long dollar positions. I think dollar will be sold again," he said.

As of 0540 GMT, the euro was down at 97.65 cents from 97.90 cents in late US trade. The pair pulled the dollar up to 120.25 yen against Wednesday's 119.95 yen.

Japanese exporters were lined up to sell dollars above 120.50 yen, traders said.

The single currency was at 117.42 yen from 117.52.

Underlying dollar sentiment remained weak, with investors nervous about the outlook for US stock prices and the possibility that more accounting irregularities at US companies would emerge, dealers said.

"Tokyo players were also unwilling to build new positions with fears over terrorism in the United States looming on the Fourth of July," Kazuo Takayama, vice president of foreign exchange at Toronto Dominion Bank in Tokyo.

Reuters

Services sector growth slows in US, euro zone

NEW YORK—Services sector growth in the United States and the euro zone forged ahead in June but at a modest pace, reports showed on Wednesday, pointing to a sluggish recovery on both sides of the Atlantic and lengthening the expected timetable for a return to full-fledged growth.

Separate US reports showed factories recovering smartly from a prolonged recession but a scarcity of new jobs in the economy, as the total number of Americans on continued unemployment benefits rose during the latest period.

And while a key index of the US services sector showed that business shed jobs on the month, job creation in euro zone services remained weak in June.

The data did not raise concerns about a sharp pullback in world economic growth, but the figures did underscore the growing view that it may take longer than previously thought for the world economy to ramp up growth.

"We shouldn't kid ourselves into believing that the services sector is in a strong and bold recovery phase. It's not," said Adolf Rosenstock at Nomura in Frankfurt.

The Institute for Supply Management (ISM), a private research group, said on Wednesday that its monthly non-manufacturing index fell to 57.2 in June from 60.1 in May, below analysts' forecasts for a dip to 58.8. A number above 50 indicates growth; anything below 50 denotes contraction.

Overseas, the Reuters Eurozone Business Activity Index for services registered 52.9 in June, also above the 50 level that divides growth from contraction and up from 52.1 in May. But the survey showed the pace of growth remained slower than in April, when the index hit 53.3.

The business expectations index, which shows whether companies expect to be doing better or worse in 12 months' time, dropped to its weakest level since January, at 66.5 versus 70.4 in May. And the employment index slipped to 50.2 from 50.5.

Reuters

EU awaits US decision on steel

BRUSSELS, Belgium—The European Union said Wednesday it would push ahead with retaliation against US steel tariffs unless Washington offers sufficient "damage limitation" in the form of exemptions for European steelmakers.

EU officials were waiting for a decision from Washington on hundreds of exemption requests by foreign steelmakers for specific products. But the EU will not decide its next step until July 19.

Germany's ThyssenKrupp, for example, is seeking exemptions for 350,000 tons of high-grade carbon steel it ships to the United States, mainly for DaimlerChrysler. ThyssenKrupp spokesman Erwin Schneider said he did not expect a decision from Washington until July 11.

EU spokesman Anthony Gooch said Washington's final list would be analyzed by the EU's executive commission, which makes a recommendation to the 15 member-states.

"If things are going well and there is every prospect they will be delivering a sizable package," he said, the commission would likely recommend holding off on imposing 100-percent tariffs on selected US products until October, when it will be reassessed.

If the commission believes the exemptions do not go far enough in "damage limitation," it would recommend imposing its own 378 million euro ($370 million) in sanctions on US imports, effective Aug. 1.

"It's not our preferred instrument," Gooch added. "We prefer a compensation package."

The commission is slated to make its recommendation July 19.

Seeking to apply maximum pressure, the EU list targets products from states important to President George W. Bush 's Republican party in this year's congressional elections, such as citrus juice from Florida and cigarettes and textiles from North Carolina.

Bush imposed tariffs of up to 30 percent on a range of steel products in March, arguing a flood of imports has contributed since 1997 to more than 30 bankruptcies of US steel companies and thousands of lost jobs.

The EU, Japan and other US trading partners have complained about the tariffs to the World Trade Organization, but no decision is expected until next year.

Meanwhile Wednesday in Geneva, the United States lost in another steel dispute with the EU.

A WTO panel ruled that the way Washington decided to extend tariffs on certain corrosion-resistant, carbon flat steel products from Germany was inconsistent with its WTO agreements and recommended the law be modified.

AP

S. Korea ups 2002 growth projection

SEOUL—The central Bank of Korea revised its 2002 growth forecast upwards to 6.5 percent on Thursday, but opted not to raise interest rates due to persistent worries about the world economy and as a soaring won kept inflation in check.

The BOK cited an expected strong revival in exports and investment as well as buoyant local demand as the reasons behind its hiking of the gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for Asia's third largest economy from an earlier 5.7 percent.

The revision brought the central bank broadly into line with the government which on June 26 raised its forecast to over 6 percent from 5—double last year's more pedestrian 3 percent number.

The upbeat growth estimate cheered financial markets.

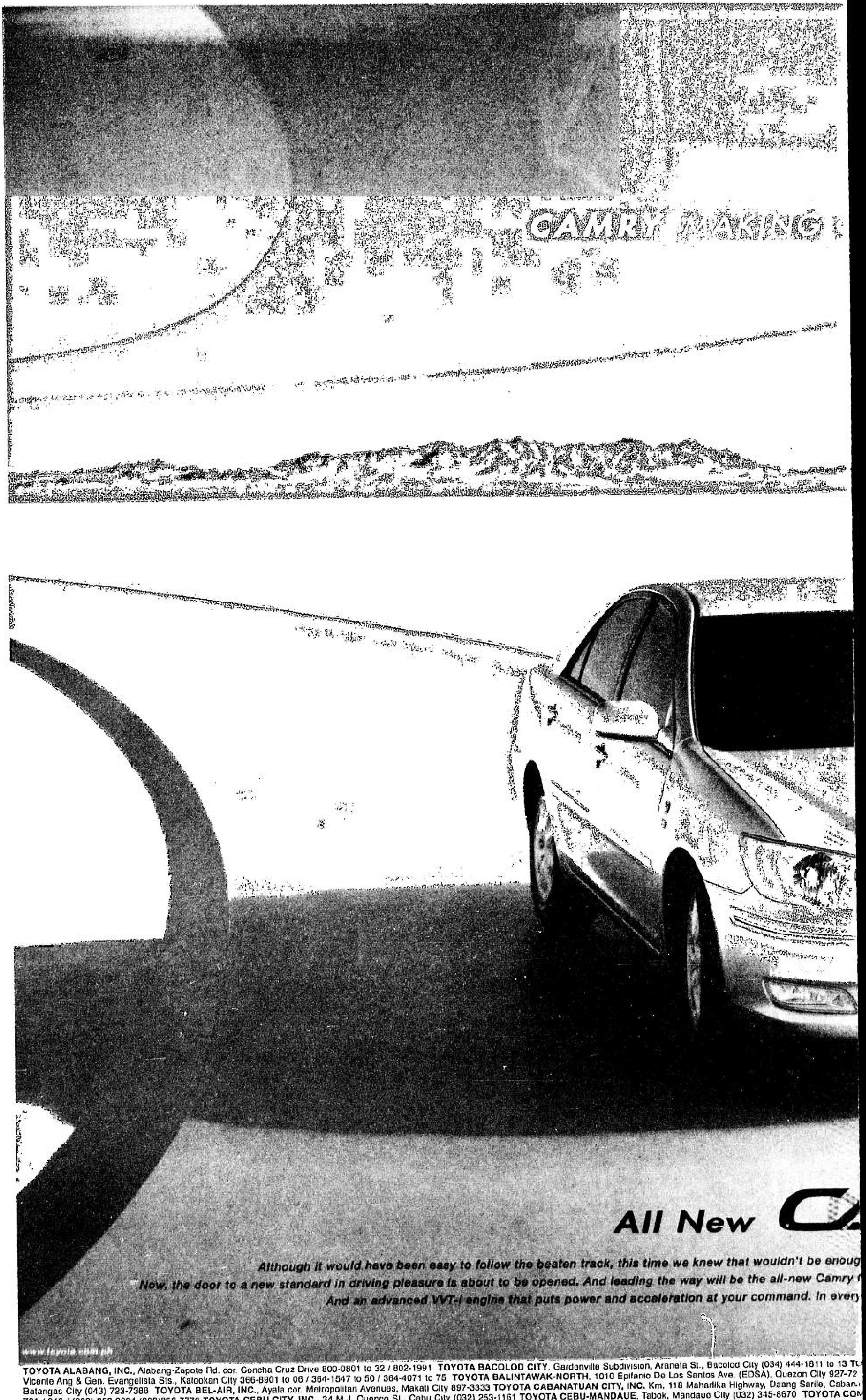
Seoul's main bourse was up around 2 percent, while the won rose and key bond yields crept up.

"Our economy is in a very desirable mode as an economic expansion goes side by side with stable prices," BOK Governor Park Seung told reporters after announcing no rate change.

"But we need to keep a careful watch on the impact of the turbulence in the US and other major financial markets on our economy," Park said.

The BOK's seven-member monetary policy committee, headed by Park, voted to leave the overnight call rate target unchanged at 4.25 percent for July

Reuters



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Japan out to tempt small investors to buy bonds

TOKYO—Japan is out to mobilize the country's huge household savings—its people are the keenest savers in the world by some measures—to meet its massive debt issuance plans but analysts doubt the appeal of government bonds.

The Ministry of Finance (MOF) plans to issue 10-year floating rate Japanese government bonds (JGBs) directly to individuals for the first time, with the aim of broadening its investor base, heavily biased at the moment towards financial institutions.

The country's banks made massive losses last year and their capacity to buy up new bonds is much reduced, which is why the normally rather staid ministry has enlisted the help of a former Miss Japan to star in a 350-million-yen advertising campaign to lure "mom and pop" investors.

Notwithstanding the charms of 30-year-old actress Norika Fujiwara, analysts are skeptical that small investors will buy.

"Moving even a fraction of a percentage of the 1,400 trillion yen of personal savings will be big," said Soichi Okuda, senior economist at Aozora Bank.

"But because JGBs are not well-known to the public, they're going to have to come up with more attractive elements if they want to sell many of these JGBs."

MOF will be issuing 133.969 trillion yen ($1,116 billion) of JGBs into the market during the current fiscal year to end-March 2003, up by about 2 trillion yen from the previous year.

The ministry plans to offer 300 billion yen of JGBs directly to individual investors in the current fiscal year, with sales over the Internet among the options being studied.

Individuals currently have to buy through banks, securities houses or post offices, which charge a commission.

Satoshi Ihata, who offers investment advice to small savers, said he would recommend the JGBs because they would pay floating interest rates.

"I think this will sell well, especially ahead of the 'pay-off,'" he said, a reference to the phasing-out of the government's full guarantee on bank deposits, due to end next April, when only deposits up to 10 million yen will be covered.

Other analysts agree the volume on sale this year should go well, but they are less optimistic when it comes to MOF's goal of boosting individuals' JGB holdings to 10 percent of the total outstanding—equivalent to that in the US and European countries—from 2.5 percent now.

Most point out that the current tax system—which takes 20 percent of the coupon—will be a hurdle in luring individuals.

"That is why many foreigners don't buy cash JGBs," said Naoki Suzuki, an investment analyst at Mizuho Securities. "I think this will also be the case for individuals." "Ten percent will be a difficult target to achieve."

However, lowering the tax rate could be difficult since MOF is already having trouble meeting revenue targets because of the prolonged economic slump.

MOF has not decided on the specifics of the JGBs to be issued, such as how the interest rate will be calculated, although it is likely to be based on the yield of the benchmark 10-year JGB.

On Thursday, the yield on the cash benchmark 240th 10-year JGB was 1.320 percent.

One big problem MOF will face if it steps up its offering of floating rate bonds—it already sells 15-year floaters—is the prospect of rising interest rates in the years ahead.

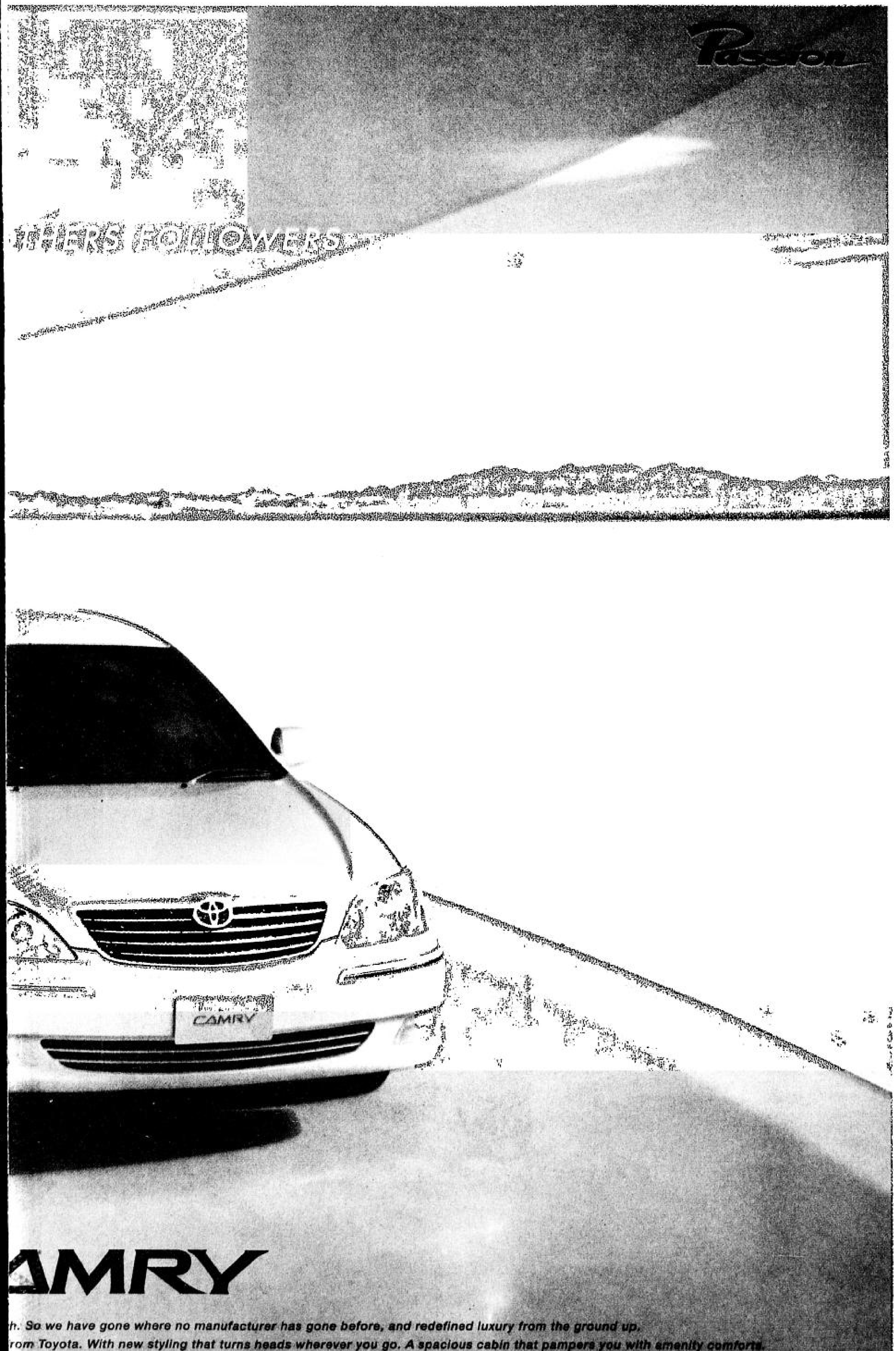
"If interest rates rise, since the bonds will have a floating coupon, the government will have to increase its payments," Mizuho's Suzuki said. "And I don't see how much interest rates could fall from here."

Official interest rates in Japan are being held close to zero by the Bank of Japan in an effort to drag the economy out of a decade-long stagnation, and bond yields reflect that.

Japanese government debt has been growing rapidly in recent years and outstanding debt stood at 436.1 trillion yen ($3,636 billion) as of end of March, nearly double the level in 1995.

Citing this rise as one negative factor, international rating firms, which assess the risks attached to corporate and government debt, have recently cut Japan's credit ratings.

Moody's Investors Service has gone the furthest, slashing its JGB rating by two notches to A2 in May—putting Japan, the world's second-biggest economy, at the same level as Cyprus, Latvia and South Africa, and below Botswana.
Reuters



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TOYOTA

Market volatility risky for economy, BOJ chief says

TOKYO—Bank of Japan Governor Masaru Hayami said on Thursday that recent instability in Japan's stock market and the yen posed risks to the country's fragile economic recovery, requiring close attention by the central bank.

"Since mid-June, share prices have been somewhat weak due in part to a softer US stock market, and the yen has been rising from previous levels against the dollar," Hayami told an Upper House financial committee meeting.

"If these developments become excessive and financial markets become unstable, it could have negative effects on our recovering economy. Therefore, we would like to keep a close eye on developments in financial markets."

Hayami reiterated the BOJ's assessment in its June economic report, saying the economy was showing signs of stabilizing mainly due to a clear rise in exports and a pick-up in production.

Signs of recovery in job conditions, albeit limited, and a recovery in corporate sentiment as shown in the BOJ's June "tankan" survey were also emerging, he added.

The quarterly tankan survey released on Monday showed the key diffusion index for major manufacturers rising to minus 18, its highest since June 2001 and a record gain of 20 points.

But Hayami said domestic demand, key for a sustained economic recovery, remained unclear with capital spending still declining and personal consumption overall weak.

Domestic prices will also maintain a mild weakening trend, he added.

On monetary policy, Hayami said the central bank would provide ample liquidity to eradicate deflation and act to avoid systemic risks.

Japan's economy grew by an annualized 5.7 percent in the first quarter of 2002 after its deepest downturn since World War II in 2001, but stagnant capital spending and a lack of a pick-up in personal spending are crimping domestic demand.

Private-sector consumption accounts for about 55 percent of Japan's gross domestic product. Employment and income figures remain bleak despite a sharp rise in industrial output in May.
Reuters

Auto sales dip in June

DETROIT—The expected freefall in US vehicle sales never materialized in June, as automakers reported sales down only 1.5 percent compared to June 2001.

Strong truck sales and performances from foreign automakers and US automaker General Motors Corp. helped buoy the industry that expected to see a marked sales decline last month.

"There is still attractive pricing, higher consumer income, easy financing, low rates and a general expansion of the economy," Burnham Securities Inc. analyst David Healy said in explaining the better-than-expected results.

Of the domestic automakers, GM was the only one to report a sales increase last month with a 4.3-percent improvement over sales in June 2001.

Sales fell 10.5 percent at Ford Motor Co., not including its foreign brands, and dropped 4 percent at the Chrysler Group of DaimlerChrysler AG, the automakers reported Tuesday.

GM's sales hike was powered by strong sales of its sports utility vehicles and in the company's Cadillac division, according to Paul Ballew, executive director for market and industry analysis at GM, the world's largest automaker.

GM sales were down 2.3 percent for the first six months of the year compared to the first half of 2001.

Sales at Ford, the second largest automaker, were down 10.7 for the first half of 2002 compared with the same period last year.

Ford's redesigned Expedition had its best monthly sales in a year in June. Its Jaguar unit reported its 11th straight record month as sales soared by 63 percent.

Despite the overall sales decline at Chrysler, record sales of the PT Cruiser helped the Chrysler brand record its best sales ever last month.
AP

Wall St. woes hang over consumers

NEW YORK—The headlines are relentless. WorldCom Inc. becomes America's biggest accounting scandal. It cuts 17,000 jobs. Motorola Inc. axes 7,000 more jobs, bringing job losses in the telecoms sector to over 160,000 this year.

US stocks extend their swan dive, with the S&P 500 index off 18 percent and the Nasdaq Composite Index down 30 percent this year.

The latest hemorrhaging in stock markets, on top of the slow-motion slide of the past two years, could wear down consumers over time and threaten the economic recovery, analysts say.

But for the time being, a booming housing market is providing a powerful offset to falling share prices as homeowners enjoy low mortgage rates and pocket the extra cash.

No one is quite sure, though, how it will all shake out. All they know is that consumer spending is critical to keeping the nascent recovery on track. It makes up about two-thirds of US growth and was key to minimizing last year's recession.

A top Federal Reserve policymaker this week tried to spread some calm saying there was no data suggesting the slew of accounting scandals plaguing corporate America or worries of further terror attacks were affecting consumer spending.

But New York Fed President William McDonough also hedged his bets.

"The risk to economic forecasts is: Could consumers become more cautious? Probably not. And could business fixed investment stay weak? Probably not. But it is a slightly greater risk," McDonough told reporters on Tuesday during a visit to Warsaw.

Economists argued through the 1990s boom about the precise impact of the "wealth effect"—the tendency of consumers to watch their growing stock portfolios and spend accordingly.

Fed research suggests that every 10-percent increase in the stock market added around one percent to consumption—or roughly 4 cents of every dollar in stock profits is spent.

Now, they are debating the reverse wealth effect as stock markets deflate. The same Fed studies show a much smaller impact—a bit over one-tenth of a percentage point spending drop for a 10-percent stock decline.

If that proves true, it would be a relief given the magnitude of stock losses that have wiped out years of gains. The S&P 500 index closed at a 4-1/2 year low on Wednesday, and the technology-laden Nasdaq touched a five-year low.

More than $4 trillion has been wiped off the market capitalization of Wall Street since August 2000.

Yet over the past year, the value of people's real estate holdings rose by $1 trillion, the Fed said. And research suggests people tend to view gains in home values as more permanent than stocks, which may influence their spending.

Despite that boon from housing, the savings rate almost doubled over the past year, which could reflect caution over financial prospects as the job market slumps.

Perhaps, then, it is little surprise that indicators of consumers' willingness to spend have turned mixed.

Retail sales sank in May a surprising 0.9 percent and consumer sentiment in June stumbled. Yet figures from chain stores through June show retailers were kept on the hop.

General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler, owned by DaimlerChrysler AG, all brought back cash-back incentives and zero financing first introduced after the Sept. 11 attacks—a signal of concern about customer demand even though car sales for June were better than in the prior month.

And Amtrak, with financial worries of its own, is trying to lure travelers with train fares as low as $6. *Reuters*

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A COUPLE pass before a share prices chart in downtown Tokyo. Japanese share prices dropped 179.49 points to close at 10,632.81 at the Tokyo Stock Exchange due to fears of possible terrorist attacks agains the United States during the Independence Day Holiday July 4. AFP

New unemployment claims hit 15-month low

WASHINGTON—New claims for unemployment benefits dropped to a 15-month low last week, suggesting that companies are reducing layoffs. But that doesn't mean there will be a big wave of hiring, economists predicted.

For the week ending June 29, new applications for unemployment insurance fell by a seasonally adjusted 11,000 to 382,000, the Labor Department reported Wednesday.

That was the lowest level since March 24, 2001, and the fifth straight week below 400,000. The more stable four-week moving average, which smoothes out weekly fluctuations, dipped to 392,000, the lowest in just over three months.

Economists viewed the decline as an encouraging sign that the pace of layoffs was stabilizing. But they said it would take time for companies to feel more secure about the economic recovery and step up hiring.

"The drop in claims to a 15-month low says that housecleaning by corporations of excess labor—with the possible exception of telecommunications companies—is over," said economist Clifford Waldman of Waldman Associates.

"But the jobs market is sluggish and hiring is not matching the good news in the slowing of layoffs."

Wall Street, after suffering two straight days of huge losses, rebounded a bit Wednesday. Bargain hunters helped to push the Dow Jones industrial average up 47.22 points to 9,054.97, recouping a tiny portion of the 235-point loss from Monday and Tuesday.

The government will release June's employment report Friday and analysts are predicting the jobless rate will edge up to 5.9 percent or possibly 6 percent from the current 5.8 percent.

Analysts estimate that around 75,000 jobs were created in June.

As other parts of the economy gain ground, the labor market has continued to feel the lingering effects of last year's recession.

Companies whose profits and revenues took a hit during the slump have been worried about the recovery's staying power and have been wary of making big commitments in hiring and in capital investment.

To this end, Wednesday's report showed that the number of unemployed workers continuing to draw jobless benefits rose to 3.7 million for the week ending June 22, suggesting that not a lot of hiring was going on.

"The economy is the big engine that could," said Tim O'Neill, chief economist at Bank of Montreal. "We have a couple of bends in the track to get around. One is a labor market recovery and the other is a turnaround in capital spending."

In another report, orders to factories rose by 0.7 percent in May—the same increase as the month before and the third month in a row in which factories saw orders grow, the Commerce Department said. *AP*

Big guns seize leadership of media giant Vivendi

PARIS—A heavyweight team of French business veterans seized power at Vivendi Universal on Wednesday, pledging swift action on liquidity problems as shares in the world's second largest media firm took another hammering.

Vivendi, home to Hollywood's Universal Studios and global music labels, named revamp expert Jean-Rene Fourtou to take over as chair and CEO from empire builder Jean-Marie Messier, ousted in a boardroom coup over its debts and slumping stock.

In his first comment, Fourtou told reporters the French-American conglomerate's cash position was "stretched" but the group said it was in talks with banks to secure fresh funds.

The teetering company put Axa insurance boss Claude Bebear, the driving force behind Messier's ejection, on its board and in charge of a crucial finance committee, making him the power behind Vivendi's throne.

It also added Philips CEO Gerard Kleisterlee to the board and made Schneider Electric chief Henri Lachmann, a key Bebear ally, head of a new strategy committee.

That put some of Vivendi's main creditors and stockholders in charge of what analysts expect to be a breakup to pay off some of the firm's 19 billion euro ($18.65 billion) debts.

The company kissed off Messier's departure in a terse separate statement saying the board had accepted his resignation as chair, CEO and a director. There were no thanks or tribute to the fallen idol of French capitalism.

"In the next two weeks, all possible measures will be taken to improve the situation, particularly in terms of the short-term cash position," Fourtou said in a statement.

"I have every confidence that the company has the strengths to address its liquidity issues and to find the appropriate solutions in the immediate term," he said.

The exit of Messier—who has been blamed for many of the group's woes after taking a staid water firm on an acquisition spree that captured media interests spanning Hollywood movies and rapper Eminem—failed to calm investors who sent the group's shares down as much as 40 percent on Tuesday. *AP*

PetroChina signs pipeline joint venture deal

HONG KONG—PetroChina Co. signed joint venture agreements Thursday with Royal Dutch/Shell Group, Exxon Mobile Corp. and Russia's Gazprom for a pipeline linking gas fields in western China with Shanghai in the east. The deal followed an agreement Saturday between the three foreign joint venture partners to each take a 15 percent stake in the 3,900-kilometer pipeline project. Fellow mainland energy company Sinopec Corp. will take a 5-percent stake, with PetroChina, China's largest oil and gas producer, holding the remainder.

Under Thursday's agreement, the companies will cooperate for 45 years, investing a total of US$8.5 billion in both the pipeline and in exploration and production, Wang Fucheng, executive director of PetroChina, told reporters in Hong Kong.

The pipeline alone will account for $5.2 billion of the total investment, Wang said.

"The pipeline will be a major contributor to future revenues," Wang said, adding that full construction was beginning Thursday.

PetroChina said it chose to work with Shell, Exxon Mobile and Russian gas giant Gazprom due to the foreign companies' international track record, financial strength, and technical and operational experience.

Company executives said the company is also discussing possible gas imports with Gazprom. *AP*

People, Events & Products

Philip Morris reiterates support for tobacco regulation

AN EXECUTIVE of Philippine Morris International (PMI) has reiterated his company's support for a passage of legislation in the Philippines that will provide strong industry regulation to cover the manufacture, sale and use of tobacco products.

In a speech before the 2nd PR Summit at the Shangri-la Hotel Makati City, Ellis Woodward, vice president for corporate affairs, Philip Morris Asia Ltd., an affiliate of PMI, said that PMI supports proposals to establish a minimum age of 18 for the sale and use of tobacco products.

Woodward said that Philip Morris Philippines Inc. (PMPh) supports legislation in the Philippines that will regulate marketing practices and smoking in public places, and set a minimum age for the sale and purchase of cigarettes.

He said PMI and its affiliates around the world, including PMPh, support a regulatory framework based on four key principles: First, that smoking-related decisions should be made on the basis of consistent public health messages; effective measures should be taken to prevent minors from smoking; the right of adults to choose to smoke should be preserved; and fourth, all manufacturers of tobacco products should compete on a level playing field.

On the global stage, he said PMI has expressed support for an international treaty governing tobacco regulation through the World Health Organization's (WHO) Framework on Tobacco Control.

"We are ready to work with the WHO and its member states to make common sense global tobacco regulation a reality," Woodward said.

In the ongoing discussions with the Philippine Congress, Woodward said there are many shared goals. "We all want to prevent youth smoking, inform customers of the dangers of smoking, and create strict rules overseeing the manufacturing, marketing and sale of cigarettes," he added.

Woodward said PMI is involved with more than 100 Youth Smoking Prevention (YSP) programs in 90 countries with half of these initiatives supported by national governments.

PMPh has partnered with the Sangguniang Kabataan (Youth Councils) National Federation, the Philippine Jaycees, and a host of commercial retail outlets to educate and increase awareness among the youth on its YSP program.

MOA SIGNING

NHA CISFA FUNDS

All smiles for National Housing Authority (NHA) general manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan (center) and Rep. Jesli Lapus (Tarlac, 3rd District) as they shake hands after signing the memorandum of agreement that will benefit beneficiaries of the Conception Resettlement Project in Barangay Talimundoc, Conception, Tarlac. The local government, the Department of Public Works and Highways, DPWH-Tarlac Sub-District Engineering Office, and the NHA agreed to pool resources for the construction of 100 units in the 3.22-hectare property of the Conception municipality. The NHA provided a P6.5 million fund for the construction of the units under the Cisfa Funds. Also shown are (from left) DPWH district engineer Lucito Sibug, Conception mayor Benjamin Lacson, and NHA Northern/Central Luzon manager architect Virginia Domingo.

National Consumers Awards

BLUE CROSS MOST OUTSTANDING

Blue Cross adds another feather to its cap as it wins two major Consumers Union of the Philippines Awards for 2002. Blue Cross is honored as Most Outstanding Insurance Company and, for the second straight year, as Most Outstanding Healthcare Company. Shown during the awarding ceremonies are Anthony Medcalf, executive vice president for Blue Cross (center), receiving the awards from Imelda Marcos and other National Consumers' Union Awards officials. Blue Cross, considered the leading provider of medical insurance and healthcare services in the Philippines, has its head offices in 8000 Makati Avenue, corner P. Burgos Street, Makati City. For more information, log on to www.bluecross.com.ph or call 899-8001.

Tuna on discount

HOUSE of Tuna, a specialty store for fresh frozen tuna and other deep-sea fishes from Mindanao, is celebrating its 1st year today, July 5. To celebrate this occasion, House of Tuna is offering a 10-percent discount on all fresh frozen items from July 5 to 7. House of Tuna is located at Savana Commercial Center, Chino Roces Avenue corner Vito Cruz Extension, Makati (across Shopwise Supermarket). Its product lineup include various preparations of tuna (sashimi, longanisa, tocino, lumpia, sausage, burger, siomai, embutido, kebab, belly and panga), fish roe, Gindara, Mahi-Mahi, Blue Marlin, Seabass, Pompano, Malasugue, Bangus (smoked, boneless, fresh frozen), Sarangani products, and pasalubong delicacies from Visayas and Mindanao. Call 899-4470 or 0917-3859437. House of Tuna delivers for volume orders.

UST postgrad course

THE UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will hold its 30th Intensive Post-graduate Course from July 10 to 12 at the CME Auditorium, St. Martin de Pores Building. The theme is "Pearls of Wisdom in the Practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology." This invitation is open to all OB-Gyn specialists in the field, as well as general practitioners, primary care physicians and residents. For inquiries, call Marlyn T. Dee, MD (course secretary) at 731-3001 local 2526, Tess Luna, MD at 731-3001 local 2222, Ligaya Pineda at 732-9292

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the heirs of Juan R. Lumulan executed an extrajudicial settlement w/waiver for TCT No. EP 23303 Nueva Ecija on 19 June 2002 as per Doc. 246, Page 50, Book XIII, Series of 2002 of Not. Pub. Arnold P. Castro of Nueva Ecija (PDI-July 5, 12 & 19 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PENSION ACCOUNT OF RUDY D. VILLAMIL HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 322; PAGE NO. 31; BOOK NO. 151; SERIES OF 2002 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ESTEBAN KAMPITAN OF QUEZON CITY
PDI-July 5, 12 & 19, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of DELFINA S. VILLAFUERTE executed an extrajudicial settlement with waiver for TCT No. RT-49126 (166908), QC; T-297830 (M), Bulacan; & TD#11750, 11751, 11752, Pangasinan on May 30, 2002 per Doc No. 96; Page 18, Book I, Series of 2002 of Not Pub Antonio D. Escalante of Quezon City
(PDI-June 21, 28 & July 5, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

This is to inform the public that the BOI Certificate of Registration No. 94-341 of Hilltop Luggages & Bags, Inc. was lost, any information please inform the BOI or call Ms. Viloria tel no. (046) 972-0141/42
(PDI--July 5, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

That Equitable PCI Bank Stock Certificate No. 515-11shrs; 2663-100shrs 11460-53shrs; 12536-12 shrs; 15790-10 shrs; 17038-43 shrs; 2570-5 shrs; 8069-50shrs; 11461-24 shrs; 12537-5 shrs; 17039-19 shrs; 2571-5 shrs; 8070-50 shrs; 11462-24 shrs; 12538-5 shrs; 17040-19 shrs under the name of Rodolfo Granados was lost. If uncontested new cert. will be issued.
(PDI-June 22,24&July 5,2002)

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION FOR NEGOTIATED SALE

The Development Bank of the Philippines will entertain offers on a First-Come, First-Served basis at the Special Accounts Management Department, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
VAB-52	Loyola Grand Villas Subdivision, Baranka, Marikina City	1,320 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 204465)	P 6,750,000.00
MED-133	7 Calle Azul, Tierra Hermosa II, BF Executive Homes, Almanza I, Las Piñas City	288 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-70413) with one-storey building	P 1,511,600.00
BATANGAS			
LAO-04	Brgy Dagatan, Lipa City	9,312 m² agro industrial lot (TCT No. T-132773)	P 7,915,200.00
MMC-164	National Road, San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	1,185 m² residential-industrial lot (TCT No. T-86841) with office/laboratory/ factory and freezing equipment and accessories	P 4,364,000.00
CAVITE			
CST-7	Caridad, Cavite City	150 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-15275) with split type building	P 441,000.00
VCP-98	Greenbreeze Subdivision I, Bo. Lancaan, Dasmarińas, Cavite	200 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-979115)	P 260,000.00
LAGUNA			
CST-1	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² commercial-industrial lot (TCT No. T-177629)	P 2,594,900.00
CST-2	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177809)	P 2,594,900.00
CST-3	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177810)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-4	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² vacant agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177808)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-5	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-17759)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-6	Don Manuel Subdivision, Diversion Road, Brgy. Buliran Norte, Pila, Laguna	214 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-177630) with building and improvements	P 1,729,900.00
PAMPANGA			
VPI-75b	Dolores Heights, Brgy. Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	402 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 481055-R)	P 1,447,200.00
VPI-75a	Dolores Heights, Brgy. Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	4 adjoining individually titled vacant residential lots (TCT No. 481051-R to 481054-R) (216 m² each) (Sale on per TCT basis)	P 777,600.00 per TCT
VPI-75c	Don Bonifacio Subdivision, Brgy. Bonifacio, Balibago, Angeles City	6 individually titled residential lots (TCT Nos. 114587 to 114591 and 114593) (300 m² to 356 m²) (Sale on per TCT basis)	P 120,000.00 to P 142,400.00 per TCT
RIZAL			
LTY-50	35 Sto. Niño Street, Ma. Corazon Subdivision, Cupang, Antipolo City	2 parcels of industrial-residential lot (total area of 520 m²) (TCT Nos. 284045 and 284046) with 2 two-storey office/factory buildings, fence, water system and one set non-operational cold storage freezer/ chiller.	P 2,660,000.00
LRD-110	Bagumbayan, Teresa, Rizal	3,747 m² interior agricultural lot (TCT No. M-96063) with piggery buildings and water system	P 1,918,000.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
MMC-164a	National Road, San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	16 units various machinery and equipment for fruit juice processing	P 816,200.00
VPI-62	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	5 units of construction/heavy equipment	P 3,100.00 to P 399,100.00 per unit
VLD-99a to 99c	Bo. Mamala, Sariaya, Quezon	7 units of feedmilling equipment with ACC Electric Genset, and 3 storage tanks	P 58,700.00 to P 282,500.00
VPI-81	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	1 unit Road Grader, HUBER WARCO	P 160,000.00

Forms for negotiated offers may be obtained from SAM's Acquired Assets Units.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V;
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M;
818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code LAO; and
818-5911 loc. 1435 (c/o Cynthia) for Code CST.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – July 5, 2002)

National Power Corporation

TransCo

RCC-RCMO-2002-07-111
July 2, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILY AND TO BID

CONTRACTS:

1)	Sp2002D2Lc328	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 60 of La Trinidad-Mankayan 69KV Transmission Line at Brgy. Abiang, Atok, Benguet
2)	Sp2002D2Lc329	Re-gravelling of Bench 1 at Binga Hydroelectric Plant Switchyard at Binga, Itogon, Benguet
3)	Sp2002D2Lc330	Re-gravelling of Ambuklao Hydroelectric Plant Take-off Switchyard at Ambuklao, Bokod, Benguet
4)	Sp2002D3Lc331	Slope Protection of Tower No. 130 of San Manuel - Pantabangan 230KV Transmission Line at Brgy. Esperanza, Umingan, Pangasinan
5)	Sp2002D4Lc332	Concrete Pavement/Access Road/Re-gravelling of Tuguegarao Switchyard at Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
6)	Sp2002D5Lc333	Replacement of Rotten Wood Poles into Four (4) Steel Poles at Hermosa Substation, Hermosa, Bataan
7)	Sp2002D6Lc334	Scraping and Gravel Resurfacing of Switchyard at Concepcion Substation, Concepcion, Tarlac
8)	Sp2002D6Lc335	Repair of Bailey Bridge at Mexico Substation at Brgy. San Jose, Mexico, Pampanga
9)	Sp2002D7Lc336	Slope Protection of South West of Tower No. 23 of San Jose-Balintawak 230KV Transmission Line at Brgy. Camarin, Caloocan City
10)	Sp2002D7Lc337	Construction of Protection Structure for Tower No. 403 along San Manuel - San Jose 500 KV Transmission Line at San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan
11)	Sp2002AdmLc338	Conversion of Existing Warehouse into Training/Multi-Purpose Center at PSMD-North, Poro Point, San Fernando City
12)	Sp2002D7Lc323A	Construction of Slope Protection for Tower No. 52 of Dolores - San Jose 230KV Transmission Line at Sitio Wawa, San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal

The Contracts to be performed are:

Sp2002D2Lc328	Excavation, Rebars, Concrete, Grouted Rip-rap, Weepholes
Sp2002D2Lc329	Grading Excavation (Stockpile & Disposed), Repair of Damaged Riprap Canal, Re-gravelling (Spread & Tamped)
Sp2002D2Lc330	Grading Excavation (Stockpile & Disposed), Re-gravelling (Spread & Tamped)
Sp2002D3Lc331	Excavation Works, Installation of Gabions and Mattresses, Stone Filling, Rock Filling
Sp2002D4Lc332	Grading Excavation, Concreting Works, Re-gravelling, Compaction
Sp2002D5Lc333	Structural Excavation, Rebars, Concrete, Structural Steel Works, Erection of Steel Poles
Sp2002D6Lc334	Grading Excavation (Stockpile & Disposed), Gravel Resurfacing (Place & Grade)
Sp2002D6Lc335	Dismantling of Existing Dil. Bailey Panels, Removal/Replacing/Installation, Painting/Reconditioning
Sp2002D7Lc336	Surface Preparation, Structural Excavation, Fabrication Forms, Installation of Wire Net, Backfill, Concrete Spray, Drip Pipe Installation
Sp2002D7Lc337	Excavation Works, Erection of Stone Masonry Wall, Installation of PVC Weepholes, Sand and Gravel Filters, Backfilling Works
Sp2002AdmLc338	Excavation Demolition, Concreting, Masonry, Carpentry, Painting, Electrical Works, Mechanical Works
Sp2002D7Lc323A	Preparation & Lay-out of Site, Structural Excavation, Hauling of Materials, Installation of Stone Masonry Wall, Installation of Weepholes

The Budget for the Contracts to be Bid and contract duration are as follows:

Contract Code	Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Contract Duration
Lc328	One Million Three Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-Six Pesos & 19/100 (P1,368,856.19)	Seventy-Seven (77) calendar days
Lc329	Three Hundred Ninety Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Seven Pesos & 88/100 (P390,187.88)	Forty-Four (44) calendar days
Lc330	Four Hundred Six Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Two Pesos & 33/100 (P406,732.33)	Forty (40) calendar days
Lc331	Two Million Eight Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Five Pesos & 37/100 (P2,839,905.37)	One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days
Lc332	Four Hundred Seventy-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-Six Pesos & 24/100 (P478,836.24)	Thirty-Six (36) calendar days
Lc333	One Million One Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand One Hundred Fifteen Pesos & 33/100 (P1,172,115.33)	Seventy-Three (73) calendar days
Lc334	Nine Hundred Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Fifty-Five Pesos & 61/100 (P918,555.61)	Sixty-Six (66) calendar days
Lc 335	Eight Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Forty Pesos & 41/100 (P837,140.41)	Forty-Eight (48) calendar days
Lc336	One Million Two Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Sixty-Four Pesos & 57/100 (P1,247,064.57)	Sixty-One (61) calendar days
Lc337	Seven Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty-Four Pesos & 07/100 (P739,344.07)	Forty-Four (44) calendar days
Lc338	Three Million Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-One Pesos & 65/100 (P3,018,761.65)	One Hundred Fourteen (114) calendar days
Lc323A	Three Hundred Eighty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Pesos & 39/100 (P380,650.39)	Forty (40) calendar days

Source of Funds is thru Internal Cash Generation.

Application Particulars for Eligibility is open to Filipino Contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB:

Contract Code	License	Registration
Lc328	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc329	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc330	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc331	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc332	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc333	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc334	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc335	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc336	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc337	At least Category D or C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc338	At least Category C - General Engineering	At least Small B - Roads & Highways
Lc323A	At least "Trade" - General Engineering	At least Small A - Roads & Highways

PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations as amended dated May 24, 2000 and July 5, 2000 shall be applied to these contracts to be bid. NPC Circular No. 2001-07 dated February 15, 2001 shall apply also on Eligibility Requirements for those NPC Contracts for bid. Only the Licensee can apply for Eligibility and participate in the bidding of the above projects. Except for Corporation or Joint Venture, Special Power of Attorney (Specific or General) shall not be honored.

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NPC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the approved Budget for the Contracts to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance from **July 5, 2002 to August 2, 2002** at the ***Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), National Power Corporation, Northern Luzon Regional Center, 2nd Basement, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City, Telefax No. (074) 445-4546*** upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Original PCAB License and Original Certification issued by Construction Industry Authority of the Philippines (CIAP), submission of a photocopy thereof to the above office and a payment of non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per copy. Contractors who were pre-qualified and evaluated by the Screening Committee for the year 2002 need not apply for eligibility. However, IB-04 of PD 1594 IRR will be applied, and Contractors pre-qualified for 2002 shall submit Letter of Intent, and additional documents like newly completed contracts to update their qualification.

All contractors applying for eligibility are required to attend the pre-eligibility screening conference on **August 5, 2002 at 2:00 P.M.** at NPC Conference Room where the legal, technical and financial aspects will be thoroughly discussed.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before **August 9, 2002 up to 3:00 P.M. only (official time is RCMO's clock)** and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is non-working day or declared a non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately after said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NPC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned **c/o Mr. Jaime G. Mateo, Section Chief, Regional Contracts Management Office at the aforementioned address.**

(Sgd.) CONRADO B. MARAMAG
Chairman, Regional Contracts Committee
North Luzon Transco

July 5 & 13, 2002 -- Inquirer

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and look for Ms. Eunice S. Yap

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Extrajudicial Settlement of State with Special Power of Attorney to the widow of the late Domingo B. Goncena who died intestate left parcels of land under TCT Nos. 50077, 44654 and Lot No. 5859-A situated at Old Albay and Arimbay all in Legazpi City; Savings Account No. 303771045 with Metro Bank Legazpi Branch and covered with Passbook No. 5266243 with a balance of P70,518.86 and Shares of Stock of Ayala Corporation was executed by the heirs and acknowledged before Notary Public Jose Marino B. Madrilejos per Doc. No. 248; Page No. 50; Book No. XVII Series of 2001.

(PDI -- June 21, 28 & July 5, 2002)

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor & Employment
POEA Bldg., Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA Mandaluyong City 1501
P.O. Box 175 Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Website Address: http://www.poea.org.ph
Tel. 722-1142 to 99 Fax # 724-3724

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB No. 002-02
Series of 2002

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) through its Bids and Awards Commitee (BAC), invites duly licensed General Contractors to Apply For Eligibility and To Bid for the

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION.

BUDGET

- Source — Year 2002 MOOE
- Amount — PhP 1,023,360.00

ELIGIBILITY SCREENING

Eligibility Requirements Obtained from	BAC Secretariat (c/o Leonel P. Labrador) Telephone No. 722-11-66, 5/F, POEA Bldg., Ortigas Ave., corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Non-Refundable Fee	Three Hundred Pesos (PhP 300.00) in Cash
Period of Availment	July 04 - 05, 2002
Submission of Eligbility Statement	To the BAC Secretariat not later than 5 o'clock in the afternoon of July 8, 2002

INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS DOCUMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE BIDDER

Obtained from	BAC Secretariat
Period of Availment	July 9, 2002 - July 10, 2002

PRE-BID CONFERENCE

Date/Time	July 11, 2002 / 2:30 p.m.
Place	Conference Room of DA for Management Services 5/F POEA Building, Ortigas Ave., corner EDSA Mandaluyong City

SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS

Two (2) sealed envelopes with the name of the contract to be bid, the name of the bidder in capital letters, addressed to the BAC, and mark do not open until July 18, 2002.

Deadline of Submission	July 18, 2002
Submitted to	BAC Secretariat
Opening of Bids	July 18, 2002, 2:30 P.M.
Place	Conference Room of DA for Management Services 5/F POEA Building, Ortigas Avenue, corner EDSA Mandaluyong City

APPLICABLE LAW/RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Executive Order No. 262 and PD1594 and its Implementing Rules & Regulations

The BAC, POEA reserves the right to reject any or all bids and/or part of therein without offering any reason, to waive any required formality or defects there and accept the offer most advantageous to the government.

The POEA assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss incurred in the preparation and submission of the eligibility statements and bid, and it does not guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) VICTORIA C. BERCILES
Deputy Administrator, and
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--July 5, 2002)

National Power Corporation
SMALL POWER UTILITIES GROUP

INVITATION TO BID

SPUG-MMSS-02-0011

Interested suppliers are invited to submit sealed bids to be opened publicly at the National Power Corporation, Small Power Utilities Group, 2nd Flr. Training Center Bldg., BIR Road cor. Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

INQUIRY NO.	DESCRIPTION	OPENING DATE	TIME
PB020718-PDAM1162	VALVES FOR CKD 1.224KW	JULY 18, 2002	10:00 AM
PBTR020617-PDJB014(PB2)	LONG TERM HAULING SERVICES OF DIESEL FUEL	JULY 19, 2002	2:00 PM

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **July 5, 2002** upon payment of P100.00 per schedule, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 to 11:30 a.m only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI - July 5, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

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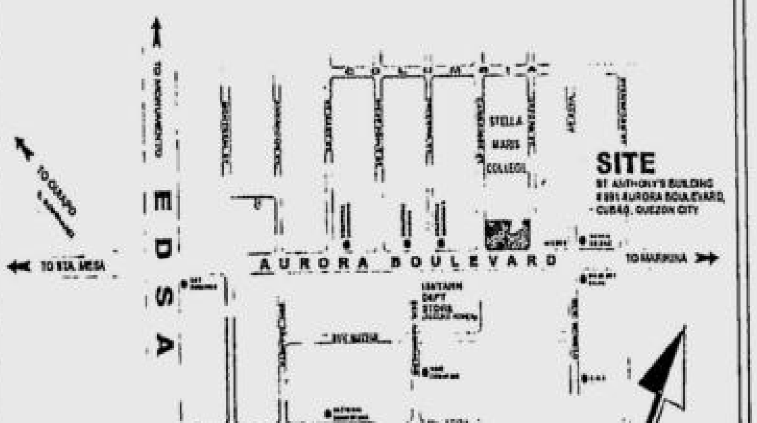

BITS Clips

PLRC Bacolod seminar

THE PROFESSIONAL Librarians' Review Center (PLRC) invites all professional and paraprofessionals working in different types of libraries in private and public sectors to its seminar on "Basic Catskills, the AACR2R and the MARC Format". This will be held on July 9 and 10 at the University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City. The seminar aims to let participants know the definitions of catalog, cataloging, catalog record, bibliographic record, descriptive cataloging, subject cataloging, classification and access point, and also for them to identify the elements of ISBD (M) and MARC Format, learn the areas of description of monographs and know the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules Second Edition Revised (AACR2R). For inquiries, call Beth Solquio-Jornadal at 927-9858, 926-4708, fax 435-5727, 0919-2399464, 0917-2483733 and 0917-3480292.

SK campaign period

IN CONNECTION with the July 15 Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections, the Commission on Elections advises the public that the campaign period of candidates for all elective positions will be from July 5 to July 13.

Lions confab in Osaka

OSAKA, second largest city of Japan, beckons all Lions members to attend the 85th Lions International Convention from July 8 to 12. As Osaka is close to Manila, a big Philippine delegation is expected. One of the groups is headed by district governor Angelina de Leon of District 301-D1. Others heading the group are international director past district governor Pete Balbanero, council chair Santiago Morante and vice district governor Alberto Soliman, vice district governor Susan Brizuela of District 301-D2, and vice district governor Robert Roque of District 301-A1. The most well-attended highlight is the International Parade participated in by costumed groups from around the world. A 4-star hotel, a 10-minute ride from the Osaka Convention Center, has been reserved by Adam's Express Travel (521-1651/1638/1698).

Café business seminar at TLRC

LEARN everything you need to know about the café business in a seminar on Coffee Shop Management and Operation to be held at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), July 10 to 12, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. People exploring the potentials of the food service business should find that cafes make a good alternative to restaurants and similar establishments. Restaurants can also be expanded to include a café—that special area where people can huddle for a snack and savor their choice of coffee. The seminar will feature a hands-on session in preparing concoctions using coffee making machines. Lectures will include a backgrounder on coffee, cost and return analysis. Sharing her expertise is Criselda M. Tanjangco, owner and manager of cafes and consultant to food service companies. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709 and 633-6728, or at 637-4108 to 12, loc 605. Visit Unit 805 at the 8th floor, CityState Centre Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard (near the Rizal Provincial Capitol rotunda), Pasig City.

PSuccess holds ICT confab

THE PHILIPPINE State Universities and Colleges Computer Education and Systems Society (PSuccess) will hold its national convention from July 11 to 13 at the Traders Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. With "Convergence on Knowledge Economy, Braving the ICT Challenges" as theme, invited as keynote speaker is Secretary Mar Roxas III of the Department of Trade and Industry. There will be other invited speakers from the private sector and the academe. PSuccess will also hold its annual general assembly and election of the board of directors. For more information, call Ava Frisia Espago at 713-1505 or 338-7409, Magdalena Reyes at 716-6306 or 716-7832 loal 300, Eleonor Jose at 716-2644 or 716-1143 or Dean Avelina Bucao at 715-7764.

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GERARDO "BOY" E. MANUEL

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 4, 2002
at the age of 63.

His bereaved wife **Josefina**; children **Noel**, **Dennis** and **Gladys**; daughter-in-law **Tina**; and grandson **Christian**; brothers **Erning**, **Bert** and **Levitte**; sisters **Pochie**, **Lorna**, **Lynne**, **Lilian** and **Lucille**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington East, The Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Avenue corner Mercedes Avenue, Pasig City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after 12:00 nn Mass.

LIM SON (SUNA) VDA. DE TAN

OF PITOGO, QUEZON

Peacefully joined her Creator on July 3, 2002
at the age of 93.

Her body lies in state at the residence of Mayor Domingo Tan, Dulong Bayan, Pitogo, Quezon.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 7, 2002 at the Pitogo Catholic Cemetery, Pitogo, Quezon after the Holy Mass at 10:00 am, St. Paul Parish Church, Pitogo, Quezon.

ORLANDO M. ILIGAN

of Quezon City

Sept. 30, 1927 - July 2, 2002
74 years old.

His beloved wife **Lourdes**, children **Ester** and **Lea**, relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on Sunday, July 7, 2002, 10:00am at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

The Board of Trustees, Officers and Staff of the
Government Service Insurance System
announce with deep regret the demise of

Lourdes Geraldez-Patag

Former Senior Vice President of the GSIS Social Insurance Group

who peacefully joined her Creator
on July 2, 2002 at the age of 66.

Her co-workers at the GSIS request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City from July 3 to July 7, 2002.

From 6 AM to 6 PM on July 4, her body was brought to the GSIS, the institution she served for 45 years, to once again be with her co-workers whose lives she has touched with compassion and kindness.

Interment will be on July 7, 2002 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the Holy Mass at 8:30 AM.

RUFINO MELO, Jr.

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 4, 2002
at the age of 77.

He will be most missed by wife, **Corazon F. Melo**; children, **Titos** and **Liza**, **Maricel** and **Cho Sison**, **Robbie** and **Chiqui**, **Ray** and **Maila**; grandchildren, **Rino** (†), **Antonio**, **Margaret**, **Miguel**, **Carlos**, **Marianne**, **Mariel**, **Isabel**, **Dodge**, **Jeo**, **Trina** and **Teta**;

Brothers and sisters **Adolfina** and **Ricardo** (†) **Madella**, **Redentor** (†) and **Virginia**, **Perla** and **Divino Villanueva**, **Rosario** (†) and **Elias** (†) **Amurao**, **Jose Armando** and **Norma**, **Carmen** and **Ben Viloria**; and

Other relatives and friends. We request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Chapel, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 1:30 PM Mass at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church on Sunday, July 7.

For God so
loved the
world, that
He gave His
only begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him shall not
perish but
have
everlasting
life.
John 3:16

Chief Marine Engr. FELIX B. BAYLEN

(August 23, 1937 - July 4, 2002)

His bereaved wife **Purificacion**; children **Freddie**, **Francis & Preciosa**, request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at PhilAm Life Village, Las Piñas City Mortuary.

Interment will be at North Cemetery.

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The Family of the late

CIRIACO "AKONG" MACEDA MESINA, JR.

of Kamuning, Q.C. and Pagsanjan, Laguna

who passed away on May 18, 2002
at the age of 68 in California, USA

wishes to inform you that his cremated remains will lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City on July 6-7, 2002.

His beloved wife **Myrna Jane Esquillon**; children **Larry & Olive**, **Lalan & Lalaine**, **Vivian & Voth**, **Ewad & Emily**, **Joey**, **Malon & Thess**, and **Janet**; brothers, sister and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul. An 8:00 p.m. Mass will be celebrated on Saturday & Sunday.

EULOGIO "EULY" M. SARMIENTO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on Tuesday, July 2, 2002
at the age of 47.

His loving parents **DON PABLO & EUFROCINA**; wife **BECKIE**; children **MICHELLE & CARLO**, **KING**, **STEPHANEY**, **DANIEL**, **MONICA**, **ALEXANDRA**; grandchildren **CARLOS & MARIANA**; brothers and sisters **SECRETARY ANGELITO & EVE SARMIENTO**, **LEONARDO & SYLVIA**, **LEONILA & KENT**, **PS JR. & SUSAN**, **IMELDA & RAMON**, **OSCAR & NENETTE**, **MARIO & CHINGAY**, **AYIT & DEL**, **RICKY** (†) **& ROSABEL**, **MYRNA** (†) request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the in 2/F B-5 Southwing, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

On Friday, July 5, 2002 at 10:00 a.m., his remains will be transferred to San Jose Cemetery Chapel, Poblacion, City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

On Sunday, July 7, 2002, Mass is at 10:00 a.m. at the San Jose Cemetery Chapel and leave at 12:00 nn for interment at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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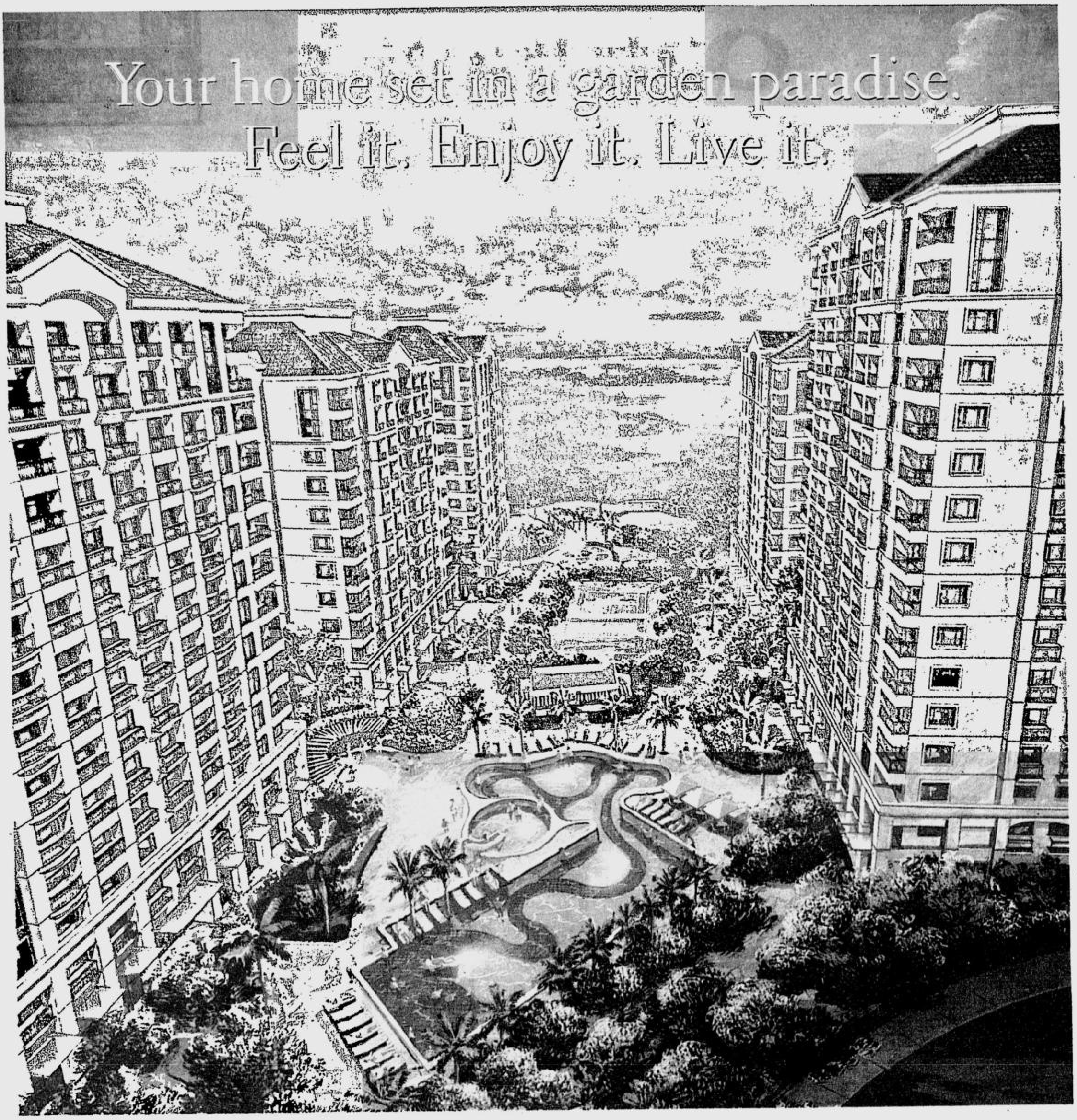
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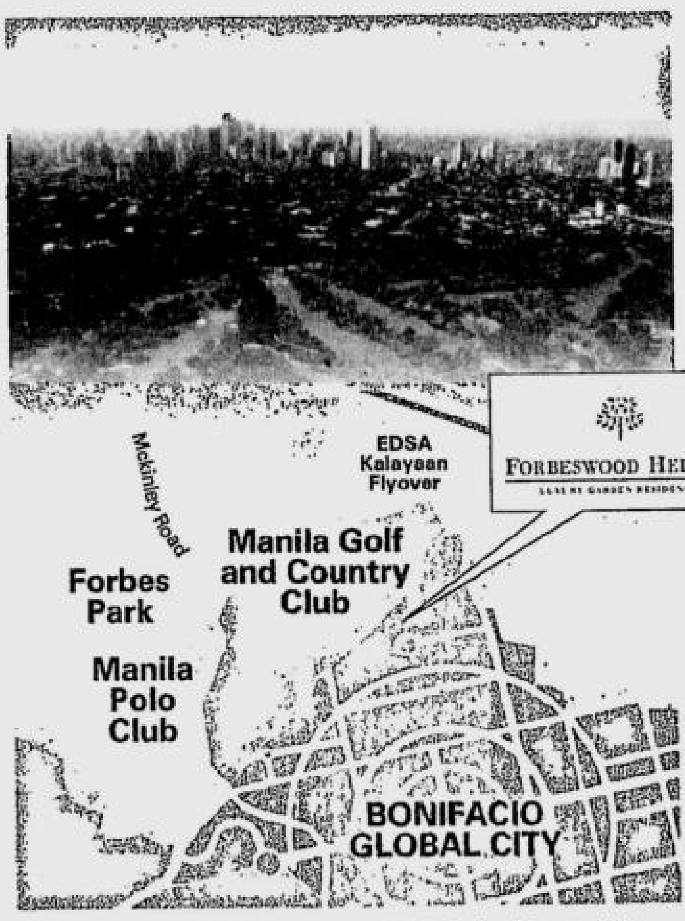
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BusinessFriday

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Five truths in marketing to sell by

By Karen V. de Asis
Contributor

AMONG the functional disciplines in an organization, marketing planning continues to be a challenge.

And it will continue to be one as the environmental forces within and around products and companies continue to change.

More and more organizations led by fully cognizant and knowledgeable chief executive officers recognize that marketing is more than the act of closing sales transactions and developing advertising, publicity and other forms of selling activities.

These enlightened and generally successful organization leaders recognize the role of chief marketing officers and marketing teams in charting the strategic directions of brands as well as companies. They recognize the value of identifying what makes a company and brand relevant to consumers and different over time.

To these leaders, the strategic marketing plan is held very dearly to the heart, much like a bible, and followed strictly to the core by the organization's disciples.

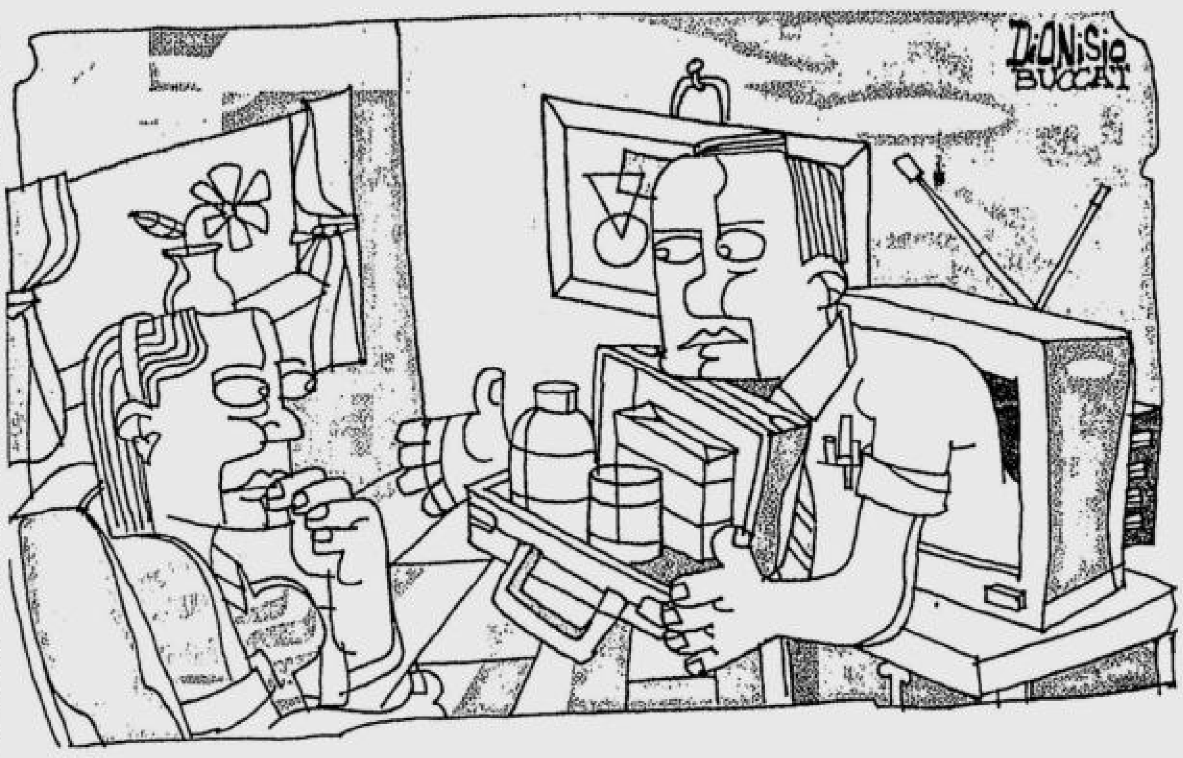
Only when there are clear distress signals from the external and internal environments, evaluated during periodic reviews of the brand and company and only after much validated research and customer surveys have been conducted, are changes in the marketing plan likely to be effected. Sporadic, unfounded customer feedback and personnel movements in key management positions should not lead to whimsical changes in a strategic marketing plan.

Informed organization leaders and marketing teams abide by the following basic truths in marketing planning:

Truth No. 1: *Define, focus and remain faithful over time to your brand's positioning and meaning.*

There is an inherent tendency for businessmen, call it a function of human biology or physiology, to be naturally greedy to aim their product to everyone. Unfortunately, few recognize that this goal generally requires huge financial resources which in practical terms, as every businessman knows, is scarce.

The discipline of marketing provides organizations with a veritable tool of maximizing financial resources by one, identifying early on who its customers are so marketing activities can be directed primarily to this target and budgets prioritized and allocated. Two, marketing helps define what the brand wants to stand for in the minds of prospective customers.



The discipline requires the brand to specify what it can do best, provided *the best* is a benefit deliverable by the organization and relevant to the customer. This, too, ensures that the brand remains significant, focused and valuable in the customer's mind. Three, the discipline of marketing demands faithfulness to the brand's positioning over time. The positioning statement should capture the benefit the brand would like to project in the customer's mind that is relevant and perceived to be different from other brands of the same nature. Changing positioning statements regularly for no apparent valid reason is discouraged. Faithfully remaining true to the positioning statement over time helps reinforce the message in the customer's mind.

A classic example is Dove Soap, a toilet soap that has been using the same positioning since 1957, "a beauty bar with one-fourth moisturizing cream that creams the skin while washing." Dove, to this day, remains in the market and has become a truly successful global brand.

Truth No. 2: *Recognize the importance of demographic shifts.*

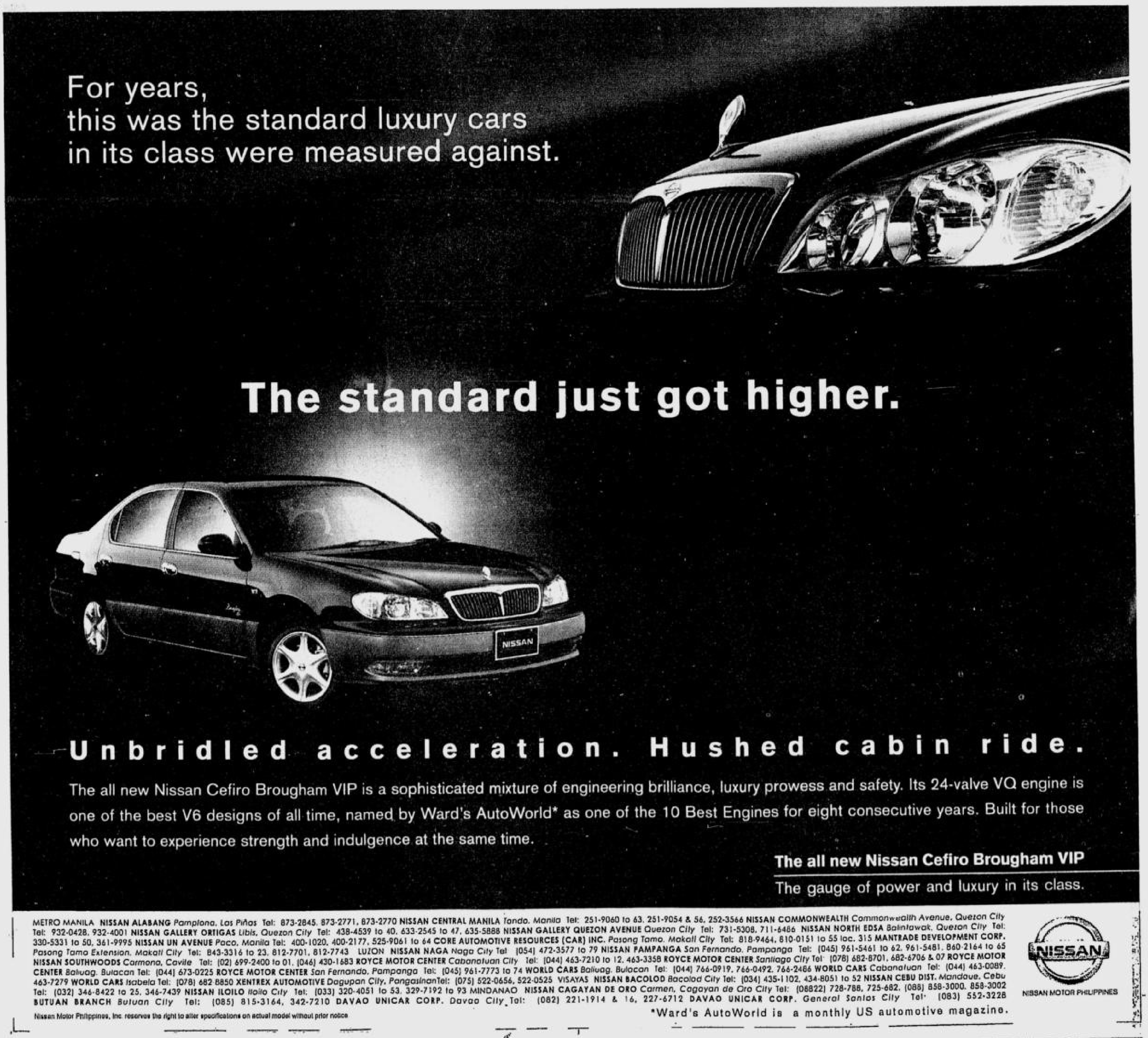
Technology and globalization has brought a lot of changes in the environment surrounding products and companies and the lives of many individuals who are likewise, potential customers.

Where before, customers are largely homogenous in nature, the complexities of the environment have given birth to a multitude of heterogenous groups of customers. Today, marketers are no longer limited to the male heads of families or the housewives and mothers as their prospective markets.

New and alternative customer markets have come up that include the netgens (the first generation to grow up surrounded with digital media, computer and Internet technology), the HOBOs (home office, business office) or portable executives, women leaders and office ladies, active silver citizens and early retirees as well as baby boomers.

Truth No. 3: *Recognize the power of brand experience.*

FIVE/ C2



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FCDU: A personality of its own?

TAX-FILES

By Maximo H. Simbulan V

LARGE domestic banks are usually composed of a regular banking unit (RBU) and a foreign currency deposit units (FCDU), while some foreign banks that have local branches operate an offshore banking unit (OBU).

Although each unit submits a separate tax report, taxing authorities still treat the total income as coming from just one source.

Thus, the bank units use just one Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) to comply with the reportorial requirements under the Tax Code.

Revenue Regulations No. (RR) 10-98, define an FCDU as a unit of a local bank or of a local branch of a foreign bank authorized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to engage in foreign-currency denominated transactions.

Although the FCDU is a unit of a bank, its tax liabilities differ greatly from the RBU.

RBU income is generally subject to either the normal income tax rate of 32 percent or to the Minimum Corporate Income Tax (MCIT) of 2 percent.

On the other hand, FCDU income from foreign currency transactions is subject to a final tax rate of 10 percent. This includes interest income from foreign currency loans granted to residents (commonly known as "onshore income").

Foreign currency income from transaction with non-residents or "offshore income" is exempt from income tax. Other FCDU income is subject to the normal corporate income tax rate.

Under existing regulations, banks are required to file an income tax return (ITR) for its RBU and another ITR for its FCDU.

However, with the implementation of the Integrated Tax System (ITS) and the policy of "one TIN and one income tax return per taxpayer," FCDU returns were no longer filed.

Unfortunately, it resulted in unnecessary system-generated assessment notices because the system could not distinguish the difference between the tax treatment and the applicable tax rate.

To correct the mistake, the BIR issued Revenue Memorandum Circular No. (RMC) 14-2002 dated April 10, 2002 and the following procedures were adopted:

The BIR would issue a new and separate TIN to depository banks with FCDU to determine if the FCDU would be subject to the 10-percent final withholding tax or to the regular corporate income tax rate.

The current TINs would be used for the RBU income.

In addition, the bank shall file a consolidated/annual return for FCDU income independent of the income of the RBU for the preceding calendar of fiscal year.

In reporting the FCDU's taxable income from foreign currency transactions subject to the final withholding tax rate of 10 percent, the income shall be presented under the Special Rate Column provided in BIR Form Nos. 1702Q and 1702.

Other income not classified as either onshore or offshore shall be subject to the normal income tax rate and shall be presented under the Regular Rate Column of the BIR forms.

In the case of interest income from foreign currency loans where the 10-percent tax has already been withheld, the interest income shall be reported in the ITR of the FCDU.

In this case, the withholding agent shall furnish the bank the following documents:

a. Copy of the filed withholding tax return, together with a copy of the official receipts.

b. Certificate of Final Tax Withheld at Source (BIR Form No. 2306).

The bank-FCDU shall submit the documents furnished by the withholding agent together with a statement/schedule showing a list of all its domestic borrowers, amount borrowed, interest income and the tax withheld and remitted by the withholding agent.

This statement/schedule shall be filed together with the required ITR.

The statement showing the details of onshore and offshore income and other income required under Section 6 of RR 10-76 shall be attached to the annual return or BIR Form No. 1702, whether the income was subjected to final withholding tax or not.

The FCDU of banks shall be required to maintain records/book of accounts independent of or separate from the regular banking activity transactions. The records or books shall be kept in its principal place of business and must be readily available for inspection by authorized BIR personnel.

Likewise, all the supporting data that were used in compiling the summary statement or schedule required to be attached to the income tax returns must also be readily available for inspection.

The issuance of this RMC is a much-needed relief. However, there are still some aspects of the FCDU's operations that require clarification.

For instance, the RMC only discussed the filing duties of the FCDU in its role as income-earner. It did not discuss FCDU's duties as withholding agent, e.g. the 7.5-percent final tax on interest income of residents.

Given the RMC, does this mean that the separate TIN would also be used by the FCDU in filing its return as a withholding agent? It is hoped that the BIR would make further clarification on the use of the FCDU of its separate TIN.

Five truths . . .

From page C1

From technology and globalized markets have emerged more intelligent consumers. Today, consumers are highly questioning and demanding of the products they buy. There is an ever-increasing trend for consumers to want to experience the brand promise. Gone are the days when brand positioning statements are simply relegated to nice to read, nice to hear creative advertising statements.

Branding

Disney, the world's seventh most valuable brand has long realized the importance of brand experience. It is the first theme park to do out of the box marketing by capitalizing on the entertainment value of its Disney characters and retail shops to provide the brand experience rather than simply rely on traditional push marketing strategies heavy on attracting visitors to the theme park. Disney has succeeded in bringing the brand experience close to the customer.

Another classic branding experience is found in Southern California's unique dinner attraction, Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament restaurant.

Medieval Times' unique brand experience offers the diner seated bleacher style facing a large unpaved arena, a highly entertaining show and dinner that duplicates an 11th century medieval banquet with colorfully attired knights on Andalucian stallions displaying incredible horsemanship and engaging in jousting tournament.

Medieval dinner, eaten with bare hands includes a full course meal of appetizer, soup, main course of Cornish game hen or roasted chicken, rib, side dishes of vegetables and potato and dessert.

Local example

A local example that comes close to the unique brand experience of Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament is the National Sports Grill located at the old Greenbelt Park in Makati. This sports grill is designed like a stadium with a five level dining area refurbished with over 30 television monitors that very lately featured the World Cup TV Series.

National Sports Grill attendants dressed in appropriate sports attires carry the official program and menu.

The holistic brand experience should not only be applicable to theme restaurants and theme parks but is likewise relevant to products. Starbucks and Lyons coffee is strictly not selling its coffee brand but selling the experience that comes with drinking a cup of coffee in these shops.

Truth No. 4: *Customers drive the marketing process.*

Unlike other organization disciplines where the process is driven largely by quantitative measures of control of assets and inventory, bottom-line profitability, cost cutting ways of producing inventory at the risk of compromising quality, etc., the marketing process is driven foremost by the customers.

While marketing does not disregard the important area of profitability, the discipline challenges organization leaders to think of cost-efficient marketing strategies that do not compromise the prospective market's needs and wants and their perceived expectations of quality. The discipline espouses investments in marketing programs that lead to long-term, sustainable profitability even if it has to concede on short-term profitability.

Truth No. 5: *People are your best marketing assets.*

Marketing-oriented companies recognize the importance of people within the organization living the brand experience.

It is not sufficient for employees and the organization leaders to pay lip service to the brand's positioning or identity statement. It is more important for prospective customers to see how the organization's employees understand, emulate and live by what the brand stands for in their minds.

Whether one sells a product or service, encounters with the organization's employees cannot be avoided.

On the shoulders of the organization's leaders is the weight and responsibility of making the company's employees believe that the company walks the talk in its brand commitment.

The leader's greater role is to stir enthusiasm, passion, motivation and commitment among its employees to live the brand. Employees are like customers, keeping them happy can lead to a successful brand.

Marketing is no simple function nor is marketing planning a simple process. It is a continuous cycle of review, generation of strategies, implementation, feedback, measurement and back again to the cycle of review... with the end in mind of serving the customer's needs and wants.

It is made complex by the intricacies of the internal and external environment and the customer's needs.

The most successful marketing can only result from adapting to the changes in the external, microenvironment and internal environment, understanding the strategic implications of marketing, the nature of the business, and at the very core, understanding the target market's needs and wants by staying close to the customer at all times never disregarding the fact that the customer may change his ways and habits at any time. ***(The writer is a professor of Marketing Management at the De La Salle Graduate School of Business.)***

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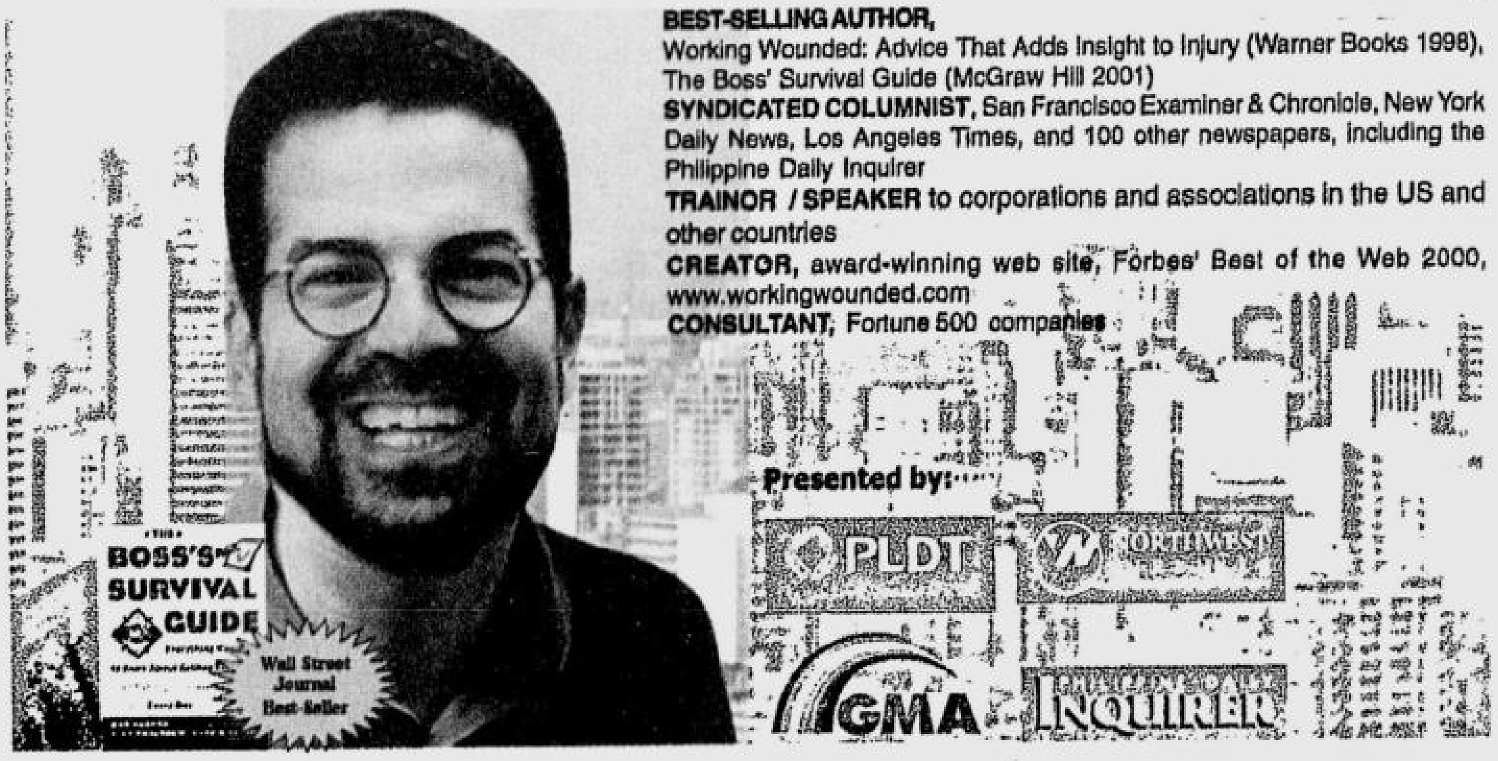

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Innovating for Leading Edge Management (8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.) by Moje Ramos Aquino
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12 Steps to Better Bossing (9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon) by Bob Rosner
There's no tougher time to be a boss: you're expected to do (lots) more with (lots) less, talented workers are harder to find and keep, and the legal climate is more confusing and treacherous than ever. And with millions of baby boomers hitting retirement, these changes will only magnify in the years ahead when there will be 32 million fewer experienced workers. Being a great boss has never been more important —yet for most of us, it remains at the bottom of our daily "to do" list.

A keynote presentation that teaches managers and HR professionals how to use "better bossing" as their most powerful retention tool,"12 Steps" uses interactive exercises and humor to reinforce its key points. It gives participants the mindset AND practical strategies to be the kind of boss people actually want to work for. *(Subsidized registration fee: P1,000 Balcony, P1,200 Orchestra, P1,000 Patron)*

Innovating for Peak Performance (3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.) by Moje Ramos Aquino
Peak performers are innovative performers. The thrill of innovation pushes ordinary workers into becoming extraordinary partners in the business. But how does one cultivate innovativeness in the workforce? This presentation will provide knowledge on the use of innovation to promote peak performance. Through exercises, it will show how innovativeness can be used to jumpstart improvements in work, systems and procedures, products and services. The participants will undergo experiential challenges that will stimulate their innovativeness and teach them how to apply these in their respective work settings. *(Free with "Managing...")*

Managing Against the Odds (Advice for the Working Wounded) (5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.) by Bob Rosner
You know how work sometimes feels like a shooting range, with flak coming at you from every direction? No wonder Jack Welch, CEO of General Electric, recently observed about today's workplace, "If you're not confused, you're not paying attention!" Bob Rosner talks frankly about the wounds we take at work and how we can rise above them. By sharing the (often hilarious) problems of real workers and executives, as well as strategies for overcoming them, he lives up to the Working Wounded motto, "adding insight to injury."

In this session, Rosner will discuss fix-it strategies.Drawing on strategies from audience members, and research and the wisdom relayed to Working Wounded by thousands of readers, Rosner offers concrete, field-tested approaches for overcoming the obstacles identified at work. Everyone present will leave with specific strategies to boost performance, productivity and job satisfaction. As the Director of Human Resources, Starbucks Coffee Company (US), put it, "Get ready to laugh and learn." *(Subsidized registration fee: P1,000 Balcony, P1,200 Orchestra, P1,500 Patron)*

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Sports channel turns local in bid for supremacy

MARKETING STRATEGY

By Raul C. Dancel

THE QUEST for airtime supremacy has launched not only the most eclectic strategies, but the peculiar also.

Banking on its distinctive format, ESPN Philippines has vowed not only to improve its programming but also impress the Filipino audience not only to keep its loyal following but also to expand its viewership.

Having been acquired by rival station Star News, which already has its in-house sports channel Star Sports, ESPN has since started to adopt a more interactive technique and is planning to engage Filipino talents to anchor segments through a magazine format.

The plan according to ESPN marketing manager Stephenie Vasko is to keep viewers' interest and make them stay glued to the channel.

Important market

"This is a very important market for us. We plan to develop it further. It already has a strong force and following. We're hoping to eventually tailor our (games) to be best suited for this market. Although it's not happening right now, we plan to get Filipino personalities to anchor games," Vasko says.

The scheme, she says, is to modify ESPN programs to make it more relevant to the Philippine setting. There will be innovations that will cater to, if not totally address, the viewing rituals of Filipino audiences.

Vasko says ESPN's plans are already underway, but she cannot give an exact timeframe, though it could be within the year or early next year.

The channel is looking into launching a search for ESPN's local sports broadcasters.

One definite innovation that the channel is pushing for—and is likely to implement in the immediate future—is the hauling in of more games or feature more sports other than the usual basketball, billiards and baseball.

Many were disappointed that ESPN did not carry the recently concluded World Cup in the Philippines. According to ESPN, an earlier survey they conducted showed that Filipinos are not big soccer fans.

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THE NBA FINALS 2002 PARTY
NBA
NBA FINALS 02
STEPHENIE Vasko

However this was proven wrong as many Filipinos closely monitored the games and during the final game between Brazil and Germany last June 30, many watched in restaurants and bars which featured the game.

Sources say however the reason ESPN Philippines did not carry the games was because of the huge costs of showing the games.

Traditional 'Bs'

The traditional "Bs"—basketball, billiards and boxing—will still see more exposures. But more "Bs" will be coming in.

ESPN has promised to acquire more bowling and billiards programs, as well as pool products.

Admittedly deficient of boxing and billiard games, Vasko says, the channel will be increasing the frequency of these sports.

"It's just a mater of acquisition of what's out there. Sooner, we'll get more of what the viewers want."

Meanwhile, the channel is pushing for the creation of a dedicated advertising screen. It will be the first and only channel in Asia to have its own dedicated advertising screen.

Advertising screens are huge TV-like monitors in crowded areas that feature ads and events.

"That just goes to show how important this market is for us, I mean, it's heavy investment cost to do that. To start the programming, again there's a couple of things we need to do to make it as relevant to the Filipino people (the side commercials, Filipino commercials), hoping eventually that it is going to be picked up by Philippine spaces. It will take a little bit of time, but we've taken the step in the right direction, especially in the advertising fee," explains Vasko.

The channel is also keen on bringing in foreign sports personalities. That, however, will remain in the backseat until the other innovations are in place.

Touted as the international sports channel, ESPN managed to lure almost a million cable viewers domestically. At least 38 percent of cable subscribers admitted it was the sports channel that got them hooked on cable viewing.

With more than 82 million home subscribers in Asia, ESPN has the biggest subscriber base in China. Revenue-wise, it's India that's been topping the list.

The Philippines, though, with its own network, is still a growing market for ESPN. Reason enough for the channel to put in more software investments.

"Our investment comes in trying to make unique programs to deliver to make us more relevant to our viewers. Suffice it to say, that this (Philippines) is a very important market for us," Vasko says.

What changes a man's mind on advertising?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

UP until a year ago Ricco Ocampo of the Anonymous and Mix fame did not believe in advertising.

But he says as soon as he stepped out of the day-to-day operations of his business, and focused on creativity, he realized how important advertising is.

Last February, Ocampo was freed from handling daily opeartions when he hired a chief operating officer.

"I had more time to do marketing and look at potential projects. It dawned on me that to make it big in i2i I had to open at least 200 kiosks in 18 months. I realized I had to hire an endorser," he says.

He started i2i New York in the summer of 1997. i2i is a line of affordable eyewear that are sold in kiosk-type outlets all over the metropolis. It currently has 70 outlets. Prices of the eyewear start at about P99.

But Ocampo says to meet his goal of 200 branches nationwide, he needed to create brand awareness. And to achieve this he felt he needed endorsers.

Thus started his shift from a non-believer in advertising to a believer. He admits that absence of advertising worked for a while for his businesses but he admits that to create awareness and grow he really needed to go into advertising.

He interviewed several celebrity endorsers and got two who fitted the image he wanted for the eyewear—veejay Donita Rose and actor Jericho Rosales.

Ocampo is spending some P20 million for his foray into advertising which goes to the payment of the endorsers, billboards and some print ads.

"I felt that in order for us to open 200 stores nationwide we had to really go straight to the consumers' eyes. We got people close to their hearts," he says.

The plan is to change the billboards in Metro Manila every six months and to bring the old ones to the provinces. The target of i2i is to open more outlets via franchising outside Metro Manila.

They want to open six in Cebu, and at least one each in Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

To help their expansion, Ocampo says they put up a website for franchisees to choose and put their orders in. He says the objective is for the buyers not to go to Manila anymore to buy the glasses but to just order these online and then have these delivered to the buyers' doorstep.

DONITA Rose

JERICHO Rosales

An i2i kiosk needs at least a four-square-meter space and the location must be in a high traffic area.

Cost of the franchise fee is P150,000 for a three-year period. Total capital investment ranges from P580,000 to P800,000 depending on the size of the area and location of the kiosk. The basic franchise package includes the right to use the brand name, trademark, packaging supplies, initial training, uniforms, operations manual, opening assistance and advertising and promotional support.

Seeing the effect on sales of going into advertising, Ocampo says he might go into advertising for his other brands.

He and and wife Tina Maristela, a former model, also own The Black Shop, a line of clothes geared for corporate women; Fish which is targetted at a younger set of women, and Mix, a high end store of imported clothes and shoes.

The Ocampos also run Anonymous, a shop selling all sorts of home stuff and basic stuff. He says, however, he will never advertise Anonymous, which already has 47 outlets.

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Search starts for 25 great Filipino ads of all time

By Roger Pe
Contributor

"THE GRAPES of Wrath," "Birth of A Nation," "Gone With The Wind," "To Kill A Mockingbird," "Bonnie And Clyde." We all know that they are classics. Each of them was considered a piece de resistance during their time. They made a throng of admirers because of their exemplary style. They enticed an audience so big they cut across not only national but global borders. They were in the consciousness of people. They made a cult following that ultimately became part of a culture.

"Noli Me Tangere," "Anak Dalita," "Sawa Sa Lumang Simboryo," "Daigdig Ng Mga Api," "Maynila Sa Mga Kuko Ng Liwanag" are some of our Pinoy movie classics. When we talk about them they evoke a certain nostalgia. We are mesmerized by the masterful eye of Gerry de Leon, wonderful performances by our postwar actors and actresses and Lino Brocka's brutal honesty in depicting real life.

We have classics and modern-day classics.

In advertising, we have brands that became part of our culture and changed our lifestyle. We have products that became synonymous to their categories. Volkswagen, Avis Rent-A-Car, Panasonic, McDonald's, Coke, Pepsi, Marlboro, Levi's, Absolut, Kodak, San Miguel Beer, Tide, Johnson's Baby Powder, Nescafé and Royal True Orange are just some of the few.

In most recent years, Budweiser got America mouthing the word "Wassup" non-stop until it became a national catchphrase. It also reached global proportions. The line was picked up from one of its hugely successful campaigns—"Wassup," the ad that won the Cannes TV Grand Prix, Grand Clio in Chicago in 2000. And it has become part of the universal daily lingo.

If we turn back the time, who can remember the classic Filipino lines from Ang Tibay Shoes, Bataan Matamis, Lily's Peanut Butter, Darigold and Liberty Condensed Milk?

Probably your Lolo Bosyo or Tio Paeng. Let's move fast forward a bit. Who can remember Camay Beauty Soap's commercials "Ang lahat ay napapalingon" series that made use of the stunning Revilla sisters?

Lux Beauty Soap's "velvety soft, velvety soft, like the petal of a rose" that added glitz to the already glittering careers of Gloria Romero, Nida Blanca, Susan Roces, Amalia Fuentes, Gloria Diaz and Sharon Cuneta?

Does anyone remember Elizabeth Ramsey and her red puckered lips saying "Magpapatuka na lang ako sa ahas!" That was a monster hit in the late '70s and it even became a title of a movie. Elizabeth delivered that line with so much spunk it made her a big star. The script was penned by Yoly V. Ong for JWT's Superwheel detergent bar, then the long-running No. 1 laundry bar in the market.

PREWAR and postwar ads often used this photo of a Filipino in a Balintawak dress.

San Miguel Beer gave us many good memories: "Isang platitong mani," "Pupulbusin ko ang dibdib mo." Baguio Oil gave us "Order ni Misis," Johnson's Baby Powder, "Ikaw lamang wala ng iba." So did Del Monte Spaghetti Sauce's "The Godfather" and "Nuns."

"Some commercials dazzle, but like fading stars, they quickly vanish and are forgotten. Some continue to play in people's minds. We sing their jingles like they were just yesterday's hit. Some lines are catchy, so Pinoy that they have become part of our idiom!" says Grace Chong, sub-committee chair of this year's Pilak Awards.

Got more in your mind? The 4A's (Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies) now accepts nomination for the Pilak Awards, an ambitious project that will honor the 25 all-time Pinoy classic ads spanning across generations up to the present. "Hopefully, these classics will inspire our young to create advertising that is insightful, so Filipino and therefore, so powerful that will be remembered 25 years from now," Sockie Pitargue, 4A's overall creative committee chair, says.

(For more information, please get in touch with Vanne Tomada at the 4A's secretariat: 893-1205 or 813-4397.)

Build a brand, make your own media

FORGET the Internet. Forget SMS. Forget TV. The popular medium these days are one-liners in the most unusual places and one advertising agency has been winning some of the world's coveted advertising awards in the process.

OgilvyOne, one of the country's leading direct marketing agencies, was faced with a marketing challenge that most Filipino companies can identify with.

What do you do when your client has a small budget, a very targeted audience, and a pressing need to be known among the most discriminating businessmen in the Philippines? This was the challenge that world-famous publication The Economist gave to OgilvyOne. The Economist, a UK-based business publication that enjoys worldwide renown for its insights, coverage and witty writing style, had always had a tougher time being appreciated in the Philippines, which has tended toward American business publications.

Many people thought it was a magazine only for economists and that it was an academic journal, rather than being an insightful business publication peppered with tongue-in-cheek humor.

The easy way out would have been to send junk mail, offering free bags or calculators for every subscription. But The Economist prides itself on being bought for its content, not for its giveaways.

Its advertising around the world has stood out because of its use of one-liners and no pictures.

"Our brand is all about people in the know, and our advertising doesn't aim to target everyone," explains Peter Bakker, the marketing director of The Economist in Asia. "If you don't understand our advertising, then you're likely not in our target market."

Working hand-in-hand with OgilvyOne, The Economist came out with an award-winning campaign that didn't use any of the traditional media to get its point across.

"Thinking up ideas for The Economist is always scary, because campaigns done for them around the world have always won awards," recounts Dickie Soriano, managing director of OgilvyOne. "How do we show the world that we Filipinos can think up of creative ideas that will be equal to the efforts of the best minds in New York and London?"

That the work of OgilvyOne here in Manila is equal to the world's best has just been proven when the Philippines won its first ever Silver Clio for innovative media for the work it did for The Economist.

The Economist campaign uses unusual media—ranging from the top of a building in Makati to a hotel door key—to reach its target customers.

If you work in any of the new high-rises along Ayala Avenue, for example, you will be one of the few who will see an ad painted on top of a building. The Economist ad simply states "Read by people in high places" and can be seen only by people on the upper floors of buildings in the premium space of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas.

To reach premium business travelers, OgilvyOne worked with Mandarin Oriental and the Hotel Intercontinental Manila to allow The Economist to sponsor its electronic key cards. The message on the key card, which is used by anyone who checks into the two hotels, plays on both the literal use of the key and the benefit that The Economist offers—it opens doors. The Economist also sponsored valet tickets for the two hotels. Businessmen get their car keys back with The Economist line "Key to success."

OgilvyOne also developed a billboard campaign and secured a site that can be seen by anyone going out of the country through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

One version simply showed a razor blade with The Economist logo, to show how cutting and clear The Economist writing is. "Words would be redundant for an idea such as that," explains Peachy Todino-Pacquing, supported by creative director of OgilvyOne. "We aim for ideas that people will say 'Aha, I got that!'"

Aside from the Clio, OgilvyOne has also won awards in Asia Pacific Advertising Festival and The One Show for the work it has done for The Economist.

The award-winning team, headed by group creative director Todino-Pacquing, supported by creative director Dorky Mallare, copywriter Rosene Santos, and account manager Wily Puyat, are rightly proud of their achievements.

"But the fun we had in coming up with those ideas was also very rewarding in itself," says Todino-Pacquing. "Although the tough part will be trying to outdo ourselves next time around."

For advertisers, New York sidewalks are final frontier

NEW YORK—It takes a lot to get a New Yorker's attention.

So when the Game Show Network began promoting its new program "Russian Roulette," it decided to colonize some of the last remaining ad-free space in New York City: its busy sidewalks.

Now decorating those well-trodden paths are some 300 decals designed to look like manhole covers. "We drop our contestants down holes like this," they read, in a reference to the show's gimmick of making participants who flub questions fall through a trap door.

The manholes are just one example of a sidewalk advertising trend that appears to be on the rise. Cable television's History Channel and the beverage company Snapple have recently used a similar style of self-promotion in New York.

But, is it attention grabbing, or defacing public property?

Such techniques don't always bring the kind of attention these companies are seeking.

The ads, it turns out, are illegal. They have also raised the ire of some residents and officials who say that corporations, in their crusade to reach consumers, are flouting municipal laws and marring precious public space.

"It is completely illegal to deface city property," said Keith Kalb, a spokesperson for the Department of Transportation, which oversees the city's sidewalks.

The companies and their ad agencies appear to be aware that their strategies are as unlawful as they are unorthodox. Their response? They can't get through to jaded consumers without using such techniques—the essence of what one trailblazer in the field calls "guerrilla marketing."

"(It's) getting to the pulse of the consumer while they're not looking," said Richard Kirshenbaum, co-chair of Kirshenbaum, Bond & Partners, the New York ad agency that created the current ads for the History Channel.

"Consumers have an advertising radar shield. They're cynical. You have to pierce their shield with something whimsical, witty and fun," said Kirshenbaum, whose firm pioneered the concept with a 1988 campaign for a lingerie company.

That reasoning doesn't work with Christine Quinn, a City Councilwoman representing high-traffic neighborhoods such as Times Square and Chelsea.

"It's really offensive from the perspective of the companies to think they're not bound by the city's laws and regulations," said Quinn.

More important than the legal issues, some say, is the fact that "quiet visual space" has become an endangered species in much of New York City.

"There are larger issues involved here," said Kalle Lasn, founder of Adbusters Magazine, which is critical of what it sees as rampant commercialism. "It's one more example of the pollution of the mental and physical environment."

Studies show that 3,000 marketing messages seep into the average American brain daily, Lasn said. "Now the decal on the street is 3,001."

People or companies that violate the graffiti laws are fined a maximum of $1,000 per violation. Many times, things don't even get that far.

According to Kalb at the Department of Transportation, violators first receive a warning telling them to remove their "graffiti" within 30 days. If the notice is ignored, the DOT issues a summons and a judge assigns a fine at a hearing.

That hasn't stopped companies from taking advantage of the space. Even the $1,000 fine seems cheap when you consider that it takes more than a month to complete the judicial process.

With 1.5 million people walking through Times Square each day, according to a local business group, that adds up to a lot of exposure for companies willing to break the law.

"You have to take a chance, and we took that chance," said Dena Kaplan, a marketing executive at the Game Shown Network.

"It's that slippery slope of guerrilla marketing," she added. "We're hoping it's entertaining and not intrusive or harmful to people."

The trend may wear itself out before the city bureaucracy catches up to it.

Guerrilla marketing works, Kirshenbaum said, when it is fresh and surprising. As it becomes more common, consumers may tune it out, which, he says, is already happening with sidewalk advertising.

"It's becoming less effective. When more and more people do it, it becomes less interesting and more annoying," he said.

Meanwhile, Kaplan said the Game Show Network hasn't received any notices from the Department of Transportation. In fact, Kalb himself admits that the DOT has declined to vigorously enforce the graffiti laws.

Kalb said he thinks most people don't even notice the ads.

"People who live in New York don't look down. People who live here are trying to avoid the tourists in Times Square. And the tourists tend to look up," he said.

Reuters

Bugs and pals to bring shorts back

LOS ANGELES—Overture! Hit the Lights Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig and Daffy Duck will soon bring back a cinematic phenomenon largely missing from movie theaters for decades—the cartoon short.

The Warner Bros. film studio is producing a new series of animated briefs starring its stable of Looney Tunes characters to run in front of such upcoming feature-length family films as the next "Harry Potter" movie.

So far, the studio has given its animation department the go-ahead for a dozen cartoon "featurettes" of favorites like the wise-cracking Bugs Bunny ("Ehhhh, what's up, doc?"), the stammering Porky Pig (B-dee, b-dee, b-dee, that's all folks!"), loudmouth rooster Foghorn Leghorn ("That's a joke, son!") and the wide-eyed Tweety Bird ("I tawt I taw a puddy-tat!").

The project is part of a concerted strategy by Warner Bros., a unit of AOL Time Warner Inc., to make the most of a 70-year-old brand dating to the earliest days of animation and familiar to generations of movie and TV audiences.

"Looney Tunes are classic characters, they're part of the culture," said Sander Schwartz, president of Warner Bros.' resurgent animation division. "It's a familiar and added attraction that we can offer our family feature audiences."

Revival of its theatrical shorts coincides with Warner Bros.' upcoming production of a new Looney Tunes feature mixing Bugs and his cartoon pals with a live-action cast starring Brendan Fraser. "Looney Tunes: Back in Action," slated for a November 2003 release, marks the first such feature since 1996's "Space Jam" with basketball star Michael Jordan.

Extending the brand to yet another outlet of the AOL Time Warner family, the studio also plans to launch a new "Baby Looney Tunes" TV series on cable's Cartoon Network. The preschool-oriented show, featuring Bugs, Daffy, Tweety and friends as toddlers, debuts Sept. 3.

"Hopefully, all these different media will cross-promote each other," Schwartz said.

On with the show

Looney Tunes are perhaps best known to Baby Boomers and younger generations for their longtime TV presence, starting in the 1960s with "The Bugs Bunny Show." But they got their start 70 years ago as theatrical shorts in an era when cartoons were as much a part of the movie-going experience as popcorn.

In recent years, cartoon shorts have become almost as rare as the Hollywood musical, though notable exceptions include the Pixar Animation Studios Inc. short "For the Birds" which was released last year with Walt Disney Co.'s computer-animated feature "Monsters, Inc." ***Reuters***

Italy's pirate pay-TV viewers suffer shut-out shock

MILAN—Millions of pirate viewers tapping in illegally to Italy's largest pay-television service may be suffering from shock—and one unrelated to the country's dramatic exit from the World Cup.

Pay-TV service Telepiu, which has an estimated 2 million illicit viewers, has carried out the electronic equivalent of changing the locks in a bid to wipe out endemic piracy in what has become almost a national sport.

Until last Monday, Telepiu had more pirate viewers than paying clients, a headache for Rupert Murdoch, whose News Corp Ltd. wants to form Italy's sole pay-television operator.

At least 3.5 percent of the Italian population were previously tuning in illegally to watch films, soccer and re-runs of "Charlie's Angels" on Telepiu, according to estimates by research groups.

Surreptitious viewing was probably even more widespread, informed sources say, as many subscribers paid for the basic Telepiu service but used illegal means to access all channels.

Day x switch off

To combat piracy, Telepiu decided that on a day in June—previously labeled "day X"—it would switch off its old decoder system and activate a new, more secure one, locking out the illicit viewers. That day was June 24.

"With the shutdown of the old system and the introduction of the new Mediaguard system we bring to conclusion the largest anti-pirate operation ever seen in Italy," Olivier Gerolami, Telepiu chief executive, told a news conference.

Out of an estimated 5.1 million satellite dishes nationwide, Italy's two pay-TV channels have between them nearly 2.35 million subscribers—of whom 1.55 million are signed up to Telepiu and 800,000 to rival Stream.

A further 500,000 satellite dishes are estimated to be used to tune in to free-to-air programs from other countries—for example, northern Italy can receive German TV—leaving around 2 million illegal viewers, almost all watching Telepiu.

According to research by Italmedia Consulting, the number of pirate households prior to the switch-off was equivalent to 136 percent of those paying, at a minimum, or, at most, 164 percent.

By contrast Stream, co-owned by Murdoch and Telecom Italia, says it has never been hacked. "Our system is 100-percent secure," said a spokesperson. "It has never been penetrated."

Stream uses NDS technology which is identical to that used by Britain's BSkyB, owned by News Corp. and a rare example of a profitable European pay-TV operator. Telepiu also changed from the Seca-system, dating from 1996, to Mediaguard technology.

Murdoch stands to gain

News Corp. recently agreed a preliminary deal to buy Telepiu and merge it with Stream in a plan to dominate Italian pay-TV. A clamp-down on piracy would help Murdoch, who plans to take 50 percent of the new monopoly, to generate profits. He is still searching for partners for the other 50 percent.

Telepiu said the new Mediaguard system, which is already present in Poland, Spain and France, will thwart pirates.

"The new system should definitively resolve the problem of piracy," said a spokesperson. "The technology is better and the system more complex."

But there is speculation as to how long it will take before organized trade in a new generation of false access cards will take to penetrate the market. The first piracy problems surfaced for Telepiu around four years after its launch.

"I'm sure you'll be able to get the new codes from the Internet before long," said a technology buff in Milan who had successfully tapped into the old Telepiu system at his home ***Reuters***

Before plunging into business, stop, look and plan

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS a fact that new businesses face a greater chance of failure than of success.

The corporate world is one where only the fittest survive, but the odds can be tipped in a new company's favor with the proper planning and adequate capitalization.

Unfortunately, most small and medium enterprises do not invest in the preparation, deciding instead to go right ahead and open up their new store, or offer their service to the market.

Marcial Bongolan, head of the credit analysis group of Asiatrust Bank, says lack of preparation and financial planning are among the causes of the downfall of SMEs.

SMEs are companies with assets worth less than P100 million.

"Many of the SMEs that come to Asiatrust's SME Help Desk do not even have financial statements or at least a system for keeping track of their expenses and investments," he says.

Bongolan adds that many SMEs are of the notion that they should get a loan equal to the value of the collateral that they are offering for mortgage with a bank.

"We always tell them that they should only borrow what they need so that they would not be saddled with high debt payments as they start or expand their business," Bongolan explains.

"We tell them that there are many ways that a business can generate cash internally like getting more partners to increase equity," he adds.

Bongolan, however, says that many SMEs have no choice but to rely on their own abilities because they do not have access to financial advice. Most, if not all, are afraid to go to big banks and financial institutions, saying that they are too small to be entertained by banks.

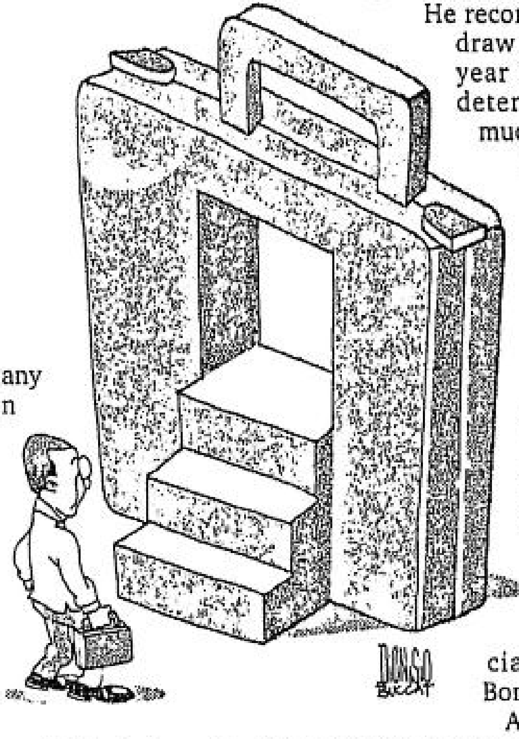
He says many SME owners have never dealt with a bank, preferring to deal with money lenders that do not require collateral nor voluminous documents before they give out a loan, albeit at very high interest rates.

Bongolan says Asiatrust's SME Help Desk tries to initiate the SMEs into the banking world by offering them free advice on what to do with their business and make them qualify for a loan. The Desk helps entrepreneurs determine the feasibility of the project for setting up or expanding business.

The SME Help Desk does not require the SMEs to get a loan from Asiatrust although the option is open to them.

Asiatrust was established in 1960 to promote the growth and development of SMEs and communities. It is focused on medium-sized companies among the top 5,000 corporations and small entrepreneurs with high growth potential.

"We have a pro forma financial planning kit. All they have to do is to fill in the blanks. We do this because we believe that a business' success is centered around financial planning," Bongolan says.



He recommends that SMEs draw up a two to three-year business plan and determine exactly how much would come from loans and how much from equity.

He says determining the right mix of loans and equity will prevent excessive borrowing, thus, ensuring a good credit standing with the banks.

"What we want is to have more quality SME borrowers and we can help by helping them with the financial planning," Bongolan says.

After fulfilling the documentary requirements, the SME has to provide accurate projections of sales and profit to qualify for the loan, along with the funding/capital resources, a list of customers and suppliers. By doing so, the entrepreneur can decide if a business loan is the solution to his plans.

"A business plan should be informative so that the lending company can make a good evaluation. It should contain information about the nature of the business, its key products and services and income statements/balance sheets," he says.

Asiatrust is concentrating on SMEs, he says, because the small businesses are an important market, he explains, because these SMEs provide services that the big established businesses are not willing to get into.

"SMEs survive even tough times because they are the country's intermediaries. They perform roles that are unprofitable for big businesses," he says.

To further improve chances for success, the Asiatrust Help Desk offers five tips to entrepreneurs:

1. Don't borrow any more than you are capable of paying.
2. Focus on liquidity. Defer plans for expansion when the economy has recovered.
3. Hold on to your cash and maintain current revenue levels
4. For starters, focus on "equity financing," meaning using your own money/savings to start a business. Additional funding may be acquired through a bank loan if prospects for business growth are evident
5. Keep your good, existing customers happy and maintain harmonious relationships with good suppliers.

Bongolan foresees bright prospects for wholesalers and retailers such as businessmen in Divisoria engaging in trade of plastics, electricals and industrials.

Pharmaceuticals continue to generate good business as well as small companies engaged in the food business. Bongolan adds that some areas in agriculture and security agencies are also expected to do well while consumer goods such as cellular phones and cyber cafes continue to stay alive.

Participating Japanese companies:
Toyota Motor Corporation, Mazda Motor Corporation,
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July 9 (Tue), 2002, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. July 10 (Wed), 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM)
Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC)
Roxas Blvd. cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. Pasay City, Philippines

Exhibitions (WTCMM=8, 100m²)
Automobiles and Parts/ Components Manufacturers Booths (Reverse Exhibition)
Japanese and Asian automobiles and parts/ components manufacturers will display parts and materials they would like to procure and introduce fields in which they are interested in forming joint ventures and technical tie-ups.

ASEAN Suppliers Booths
Suppliers from ASEAN countries will display parts and materials they wish to supply to the ASEAN region and Japan, introduce fields in which they are interested in forming joint ventures and technical tie-ups.

Co-organized by:
- Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)
- ASEAN Automotive Federation (AAF)
- Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc. (JAMA)
- Japan Auto Parts Industries Association (JAPIA)

Supported by:
- Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),Philippines
- Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan
- Philippine Automotive Federation, Inc. (PAFI)
- PAFI Point Organization: Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (MVPMAP)
- Japan Overseas Development Corporation (JODC)

Seminar (PTTC) July 9, 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
A seminar with the theme "Strengthening the Competitiveness of Auto Suppliers in the ASEAN Region"

10:30 Opening Remarks - *Mr. Vicente Mills*, President, PAFI
10:35 Opening Remarks - *Ms. Aisha Ahmad*, President, AAF
10:50 Greetings - Honorable Undersecretary *Gregory L. Domingo*, DTI
11:05 Japanese auto manufacturers' expectations from ASEAN suppliers *Mr. Toru Onda*, Vice Chairman, Purchasing Committee, JAMA
11:20 Japanese auto parts manufacturers' expectations from ASEAN suppliers *Mr. Toyohiko Shimada*, Vice Chairman & Executive Managing Director JAPIA
11:35 Introduction and report on dispatching experts to ASEAN auto suppliers by JODC scheme *Mr. Takao Suzuki*,Vice Chairman, JAMA
11:50 Case Studies of Successful ASEAN suppliers by JODC Expert Dispatch Program
- Philippines - Roberts Automotive and Industrial Parts Mfg. Corp.
- Thailand - Ampas Industries Company, Ltd.
- Indonesia - PT. Tjokro Bersaudara Cikarangindo
- Malaysia - Tong Yong Industries Sdn Bhd.

13:10 Question and Answer

Open to businessmen, entrepreneurs, suppliers and other individuals with interest in the auto industry.
For inquiries, call JETRO Manila at (632) 817-6431 or (632) 892-4359 and look for Ms. Joy or Mr. Sasaki
www.jetro.go.jp

Are local consumers ready for ostrich eggs and meat?

By Christine A. Gaylican

ARE Philippine consumers ready for ostrich meat and eggs? Xylena Farms would like to believe that they are.

Xylena dared to introduce ostrich products to the local market by raising ostrich in a 9-hectare vacant lot in Tagaytay.

According to Xylena Farms owner and chief executive officer Marlon A. Rivera, there is a big market potential for ostrich products here and abroad because of the consumers' pursuit for healthy meat.

He says that ostrich meat could be sold to gourmet restaurants and hotels that require lean but flavorful meat.

"Ostrich meat is lean, clean and healthy because it is low in cholesterol and fat," says Rivera.

The egg could also be cooked, if people are willing to pay P800 for it.

"Eggs that are already stale could also be drained and the empty shell could still fetch P500 a piece," says Rivera.

Xylena Farms, he says, has donated some empty ostrich eggs to fine arts schools in Manila.

The empty ostrich eggs could be hand-painted and polished for decorative purposes.

A painted ostrich egg sells $500 to $1,000 a piece in the international markets.

Another valuable by-product of the ostrich is its skin, which is the next best thing to cow leather products.

"During my recent visit to Hong Kong's leather collection expo, the top-of-the-line products are made of ostrich hide," he notes.

He adds that the leather products of top designers Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Gucci are made of ostrich skin.

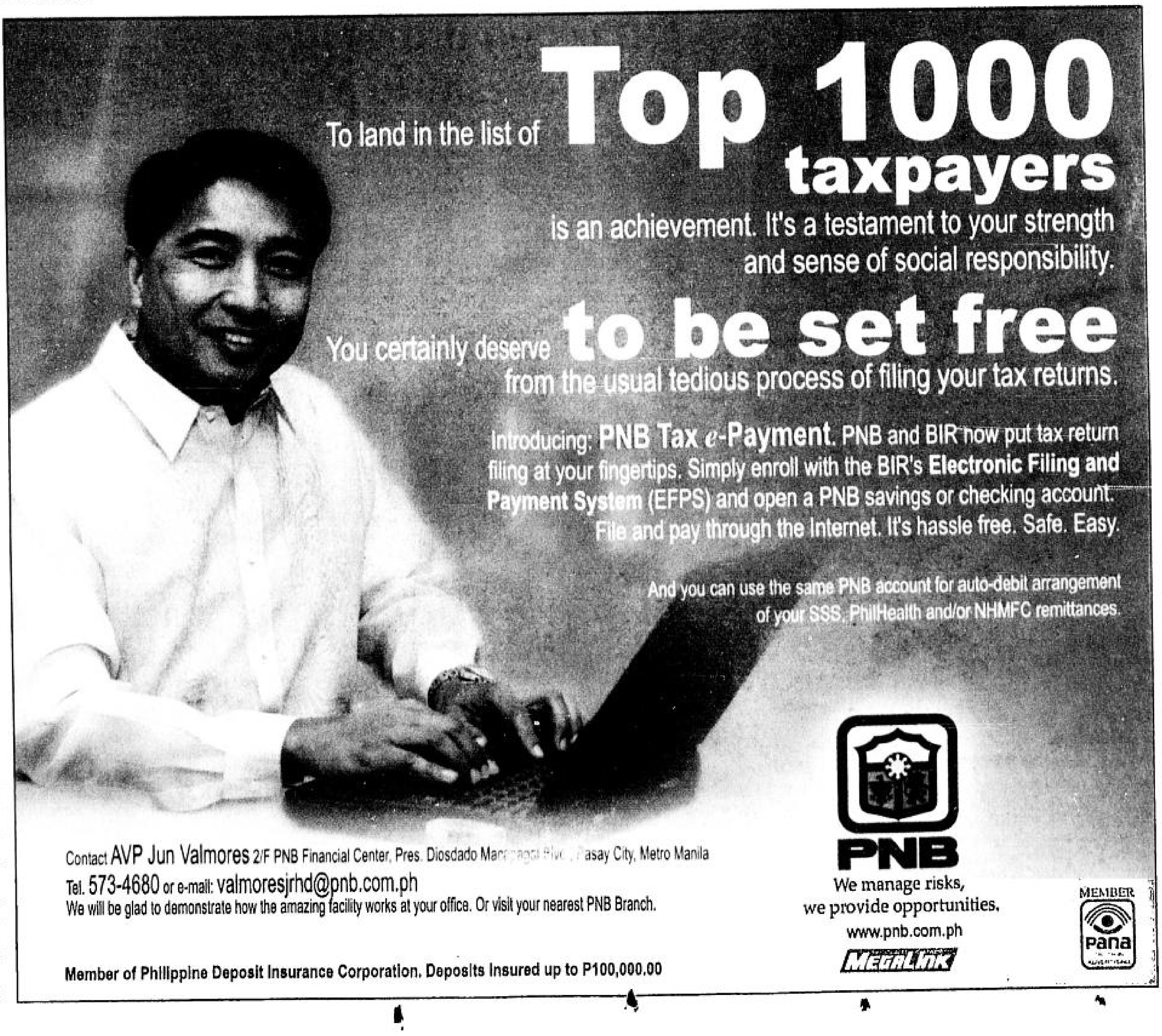
He, however, laments that the Philippines could not export the ostrich skin to Europe because of the lack of tanning facilities. About 5 kilograms of the skin could sell for as much as $10,000 abroad.

Xylena Farms is just one of the four existing ostrich farms in the country.

Starting its operations only in November, Xylena now sells ostrich chicks to interested raisers.

Aside from ostrich, Xylena also raises Kabir chickens from Israel.

"In ostrich farming one needs to shell out at least a million as a start-up capital but the return on investment could also be more than that in the medium term," Rivera says.



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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

McCann appoints new execs

EMILY Abrera, chair of top ad agency McCann-Erickson Philippines, recently announced the appointments of Patricia N. Arches to the position of chief executive officer and Susan L. Dimacali to executive vice president for business development and external affairs.

Formerly its COO, Ricki is concurrently president of McCann, the largest advertising agency in the country. She joined the company in 1986, quickly proving her capabilities in the areas of operational effectiveness and finance management. Named president in 1999, Ricki's quiet demeanor belies an intensely competitive spirit and a dedication to excellence that have solidly contributed to McCann's continuing success.

DIMACALI

ARCHES

Susan, who has been head of McCann's account service since 1999, is known for the passion and energy she brings to the workplace, as well as for the key role she plays in the ad industry. Elected two consecutive times as Adboard chair, and board director of the 4As-P, Susan has already begun to parlay her 21 years of brand management experience into new business gains for the agency.

Both Ricki and Susan have won the prestigious H.K. McCann Leadership Award, in 1990 and 1995 respectively, for their outstanding contributions.

BEDAN LAWYERS MEET

The San Beda Law Alumni Association Inc. board of trustees met recently with Rev. Fr. Abbot Tarcisio Ma. H. Narciso, OSB. Standing, from left, are lawyer Salvador C. Medialdea, lawyer, Alfredo L. Villamor, lawyer Anna Marie Melanie B. Trinidad, lawyer Arwin D. Bahia, lawyer Roberto De Leon, Dean Virgilio Jara, lawyer Alfredo C. Lim, lawyer Dante R. Barbosa, lawyer Ernesto R. Anasco, and lawyer Norberto P. Manzano. Seated, from left, are lawyer Jeremy Z. Parulan, lawyer Rodolfo C. Robles, lawyer Avelino V. Cruz, Fr. Narciso, lawyer Sixto S. Brillantes, lawyer Francisco Acosta, and lawyer Gwendolyn E. Malaya.

Sun Life Financial

SUN LIFE, HFH PARTNER ANEW

Sun Life Financial, through its Sun Shares (Sharing Hope and Resources for Education and Social Services) program, forges anew its partnership with Habitat for Humanity Philippines Foundation Inc. by lending support to Youth Build 2002. Sun Life Financial also took part in Habitat for Humanity's Jimmy Carter Work Project in 1999, when over 120 Sun Life Financial employees spent a day outside the corporate realm and under the sun to build homes for indigent families. This year, apart from sharing human resources, Sun Life Financial gave Habitat for Humanity funding for the construction of one home unit.

AMA Computer University RP's most outstanding computer school

AMA Computer University (Amacu) was honored as the Most Outstanding Computer School in the Philippines during the annual recognition night of the distinguished Excellence Awards for Quality of the Golden Mother and Father Foundation held recently at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila.

The Excellence Awards for Quality Foundation, chaired by Vickie Dizon, cites outstanding companies, products and services which have made exemplary contributions to the welfare of Filipino consumers.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo extended her felicitations to all the named winners of this year's Excellence Awards, particularly citing Amacu as the finest educational institution to offer information and communications technology-(ICT) based degree courses.

Having passed the rigid screening and evaluation of the Excellence Awards for Quality Foundation, Amacu was placed among the crème of the crop in the local business industry like other awardees such as Globe Telecom, Jollibee and Mercury Drug.

"We are very proud and honored of having awarded the 2002 Most Outstanding Computer School given by the Excellence Award for Quality. The prestigious award has marked our position in the industry anew," said Dr. Amable R. Aguiluz V, Amacu president.

After having conferred its university status on Aug. 21, 2001 by the Commission on Higher Education (Ched), Amacu constantly worked on empowering its academic research and international university linkages to contribute more in the creation of new knowledge in the new global economy.

Amacu has produced over 150,000 globally competitive and world-class ICT graduates since its foundation 23 years ago.

"We commit ourselves to bring in new technologies to the welfare of our studentry and faculty. We will never get tired of introducing many firsts in Philippine education. We shall hold on to our thrust of being the first and the largest IT university in Asia," he added.

Having reaped numerous awards and citations, its unprecedented leadership in ICT education in the Philippines and in Asia has led to showcase global curriculum and internationally recognized course offerings.

The multi-awarded Amacu is the first to offer and to author degree programs for Computer Science and, recently, Mechatronics Engineering, benchmarked from the curricula of Ngee Ann Polytechnic and Nan Yang Polytechnic of Singapore.

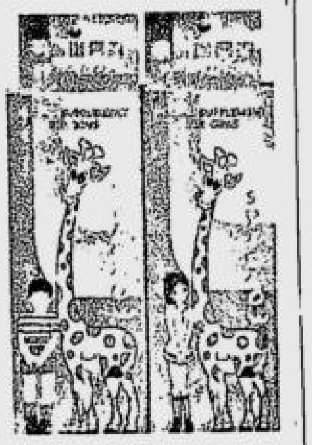
EIGHT O' CLOCK FLOWER GIVING

As a tribute to moms everywhere, Eight O' Clock, the number one brand in powdered drinks, surprised female shoppers in various groceries nationwide with a thoughtful gift of farm fresh imported mums and gerbera flowers on the occasion of Mother's Day. The Mother's Day treat, the only one of its kind from a juice company, was Eight O' Clock's way of saying thank you to Filipino mothers, to whom the brand attributes its success as the best selling powdered drink brand today. For years, Filipino mothers have unanimously chosen Eight O' Clock as the top choice for the family with its unique true-to-the-fruit taste, value for money, and world-class quality.

Product FILES

Herbal food supplement for boys and girls

AFTER years of development, the Spigrow capsule has been successfully prepared. This is the herbal food supplement that helps promote growth and increase the height of children and youngsters. The common conclusion has been that the Spigrow capsule plays an important role in improving children's growth, increasing the average height of children and strengthening their bodies using the combined power of traditional Chinese medicine and modern nutrition and health care. For inquiries, call 742-0952, fax 743-2275.



Life is our life's work.
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TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH

A tripartite partnership with the Department of Health, the Ateneo Graduate School of Business, and Pfizer Philippines Foundation was recently forged to implement an innovative project called Leaders for Health. The multimillion project was made possible through a grant from Pfizer Foundation in New York and Pfizer Philippines Foundation Inc. Through the Leaders for Health project, the three contribute to the community by developing a corps of competent, professional and committed leaders. Programs for doctors and local chief executives and community leaders will be run by the health unit of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. Shown sealing the private-public partnership are, from left, Rey Gerardo E. Bacarro, president and country manager of Pfizer Inc., DOH Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit, and Alfredo R. A. Bengzon, dean of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business.

Haribon brings RP biodiversity to ATC

IF THE USUAL mall activities leave you bored and wanting for more, then head off to the Activity Center of Alabang Town Center from now to July 10 and have a totally different mall experience through Haribon Foundation's Biodiversity Mall Tour.

In celebration of Haribon's 30th year, the mall tour brings the concept and plight of our country's biodiversity to people's consciousness and help them get a better grasp of the vital role that it plays in our survival.

Haribon defines biodiversity as the variety of living things – including man – that is required to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Many still don't realize that if this isn't conserved properly, the country may face severe and widespread shortages of food, medicines, clothing and shelter.

Among the attractions and activities lined up for the event include a photo exhibit by Neil Oshima showing various pictures of forests and interactive digital stations that lest visitors get to know more about Haribon, the Philippine Eagle as well as different environment trivia. A dynamic cocoon shaped tent gives visitors the feel, smell and sound of a forest--a truly remarkable experience.

A water cycle diorama lets visitors have a better understanding of exactly how the cycle works, as well as the destruction that excessive and irresponsible logging brings to the environment. Weekends provide even more excitement as kids are in for a treat with celebrity storytelling and lots of fabulous games.

Of course, a souvenir and membership booth is located at the venue for those who wish to volunteer and become members of the Haribon Foundation.

Subsequent mall tours are scheduled from July 11 to 17 at the Main Atrium of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall and from Aug. 19 to 25 at the North Court of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell.

Through the Biodiversity Mall Tour, Haribon continues to take an active and leading role in enabling everyone to care for and conserve the environment through scientific excellence and community empowerment.

Haribon's biodiversity exhibit is sponsored by Philips, Apple Computers and NU 107.

The Haribon Foundation may be reached at Suites 401-404 Fil-Garcia Tower, 140 Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman Street, Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City or call 436-4363, 433-3476 or log on to www.haribon.org.ph

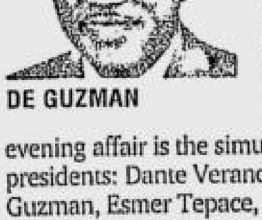
Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, Inc.
A PESO TO DETECT
Cervical Cancer's warning Signs
A PESO TO PROTECT

POGS, SANOFI-SYNTHELABO SIGN MOA

Sanofi-Synthelabo, makers of Lactacyd, the country's leading feminine wash, recently signed an MOA with the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS). Under the agreement, POGS and Sanofi-Synthelabo will jointly undertake nationwide cervical cancer screening for free. The event was attended by Sanofi-Synthelabo Philippines president Peter Dolinsky (seated, 3rd from left) and POGS president Dr. Greg Pastorfide (center), and (from left) POGS PR officer Dr. Ditas Decena, POGS secretary Dr. Blanca de Guia, POGS vice president Dr. Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, POGS treasurer Dr. Zayda Gamilla and Sanofi-Synthelabo medical director Dr. Alma Casareo. Also shown are (standing, from left) POGS board member Dr. Rosendo Roque, Sanofi-Synthelabo product manager for Ob-Gynecology franchise Agnes Francisco, POGS board members Dr. Sylvia Camero, Dr. Susan Nagtalon, Dr. Rogelio Mendiola, and Dr. Virgilio Castro, and Sanofi-Synthelabo primary health care division director Carlito Realuyo

BITS Clips

Marikina Rotary induction



DE GUZMAN

300 ROTARIANS from all eight Rotary Clubs in Marikina City will converge at the Studio Concert Hall, Riverbanks Center, Marikina City starting 6 p.m. on July 5 for their joint induction and hand-over ceremonies. Marikina City mayor Marides Fernando is the guest speaker, while district governor Efren de Guzman is the inducting officer. He will also deliver the inspirational message. The highlight of the evening affair is the simultaneous induction into office of the eight club presidents: Dante Verano, Ching Umali, Frix Africa, Dr. Boy Lo, Joey de Guzman, Esmer Tepace, Jess Domingo, and Raul Evangelista. The officers of the spouses association and the Inner Wheel Club of Marikina will be inducted by Pam de Guzman. Raffle draws, singing and dancing will follow the main program. Live music is from the Marcy David Band.

Sony purchases made easy

BPI CREDIT cardholders wanting to purchase that dream Sony product may do so on advantageous terms at the 28th BPI Appliance Madness now ongoing at the Glorietta, Ayala Center in Makati City until Sunday, July 7. The key benefit to cardholders making purchases at the BPI Appliance Madness is the Zero-interest on selected products up to 12 months. Sony products offered at the BPI Madness include Walkmans, Hi-Fi systems, Wega TV, Projection TV Wega, DVDs, Handycams, Cybershot, digital cameras and cassette recorders.

MH del Pilar HS '58 reunion

THE MARCELO H. del Pilar High School Class '58 will hold its annual reunion at the Paradise Resort on MacArthur Highway in Malolos, Bulacan at 9 a.m. on Sunday, July 7 with class member Bulacan Vice Governor Reli Plamenco serving as host. For more information, call Mariet Villafuerte at 929-2171 or Genny Nieva at 891-3485, or Gaving Villafuerte at 044 7941596

How safe are malls in Manila?

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT HAS been almost a year since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, and concerns over security in the Philippines have waned.

Most Filipinos believe that the wave of terror has passed, notwithstanding sporadic skirmishes in Mindanao and the continued threat of the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

This is evident in the way that popular shopping malls in Metro Manila and the provinces have scaled down their security operations. Unlike before when security guards of malls routinely subject shoppers to body checks and thorough inspection of belongings, customers now can go in and out more freely.

Mall operators interviewed by Business Friday, however, emphasize that the reduced threat from terrorist attacks or criminal elements does not mean that security is no longer a priority.

Business Friday interviewed the operators of three of the leading malls in the Philippines who all said that they could not afford to let their guard down, whether in terms of security or fire safety.

Rockwell Power Plant Mall

This upscale medium-sized mall in Makati City boasts of having one of the most stringent safety rules among the leading malls.

To protect its tenants and customers from fire and security threats, it has put in place accessible and well-lit fire exits, 24-hour security, fire and smoke alarms, fire fighting equipment, automated sprinkler system, emergency lights and fire detection and control system.

ROCKWELL Mall says it is recognized as a model building in terms of maintenance and periodic testing of equipment.

Because of its aggressive campaign on safety, the City of Makati, the Makati commercial estate Association Inc. and the Makati Fire Safety Foundation recognized the Power Plant Mall for having complied with fire prevention and safety requirements of the fire code and National Building Codes of the Philippines.

It was also recognized as a model building in terms of completeness, maintenance and periodic testing of its fire equipment.

In terms of security, Rockwell claims it protects its clients and tenants by making sure that security resources and measures are properly activated. These guards, closed circuit television monitoring, plain clothes security for detection, augmentation by uniformed and plain clothes policemen and regular inspection by the Philippine National Police.

"Security is everybody's concern, which is why we constantly communicate with our tenants regarding this endeavor," says Bien Carlota of the Rockwell Engineering Department.

PART of annual fee goes to safety and security.

"At the end of every year, we normally conduct a security audit to identify and assess the implementation of the security system in the Power Plant Mall. Review on posts, barriers and capabilities of equipment and people are done to identify strong and weak points," he added.

He emphasized that strict adherence to the Philippines' fire and safety standards go a long way in providing a safe and secure environment for all clients and tenants.

PriceSmart

PriceSmart is one of the biggest membership shopping networks in the United States, and was one of the first to take advantage of the Philippine market when the retail sector was liberalized last year.

Since then it has opened branches in the Fort Bonifacio Global City, Ortigas and in Congressional Ave. in Quezon City.

Ben Woods, PriceSmart general manager for the Philippines, says in an interview that part of the annual fee paid by the members to shop in PriceSmart goes to making sure that the members would have a safe and secure environment to do their shopping.

"Because we are an American company, we comply not only with the local standards on fire safety and security but also with the standards in the US because all PriceSmart operations follow the same set of rules whether here or in the United States," Woods says.

These rules require, for instance, that PriceSmart deploy a contingent of well-trained security personnel to patrol not only the inside of the warehouse club but the perimeter.

PriceSmart also continues to inspect all cars that go to the store just to add to that sense of security for the members.

"We also still have bomb sniffing dogs which is unique among the retail outlets here. We have one for all three outlets," Woods says.

He explains that PriceSmart continues to employ the same security measures that it did since last year as part of its commitment to the members.

"We wanted to create a nice and safe place for our members to shop," Woods explains.

To prevent fire, PriceSmart has installed a state-of-the-art sprinkler system and the warehouse clubs were constructed in such a way that it would be easy for the clients and the employees to evacuate in case there is fire.

"We regularly conduct evacuation drills for the employees, basically the same as what we do abroad," Woods says.

He stresses that it is important to present a safe environment for the members as these have become major factors that determine the success of new retail entrants such as PriceSmart.

In the meantime, PriceSmart shows no signs of slowing down with two more warehouse clubs in the pipeline. The Alabang PriceSmart would open at the end of the year while the Roxas Boulevard outlet will follow early next year.

"We are committed to the Philippines. We are not slowing down and we are in for the long haul," Woods says.

Greenbelt Mall

Sticking out like an oasis in the middle of the Makati urban jungle is the newly opened Greenbelt 2 mall.

The mall is the latest addition to the malls operated by the Ayala group. What makes it unique is that it is envisioned to come with a 2.8-hectare park.

To bolster the shopping experience, the Ayala group put in place fire safety and security measures to protect clients and the tenants.

GEARING towards quick response to fire threats.

Rowena Tomeldan of the Ayala group says the Greenbelt mall has basically the same facilities as the other malls operated by the Ayala group which are geared towards quick response to fire threats and prevention of security breaches.

The 30,000-square meter Greenbelt 2, for instance, has a direct line to police departments and bomb disposal units in Makati City to ensure quick assistance in case there are major security concerns.

Tenants are also required to comply with the strictest standards in fire safety and security before they could lease space. This is especially applicable for Greenbelt 2, which will have as many as 16 fine dining restaurants once fully operational.

Greenbelt 2 is also hooked up to the Ayala group's own fire fighting brigade, which can easily respond to distress calls sounded off by any of the Ayala group's malls in the center.

The fire-fighting brigade has its own fire-fighting equipment such as water trucks and gear for the full-time firefighters. These are on top of standard fire fighting and security measures employed by most leading malls such as closed circuit television, fire extinguishers, well-lit fire exits and smoke alarms and sprinklers.

Tomeldan stressed that the Ayala group complements these facilities with periodic training of the staff to keep them abreast of the latest developments in fire safety and security, even earthquake drills.

Security bulletins are regularly distributed and talks with police officers are held to know any new gangs or criminal syndicates that pose potential security threats to the mall and more importantly its tenants and customers.

Teacher sells horse for ₱750, resigns, builds Bicol's biggest poultry farm

By Juan Escandor Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BAAO, Camarines Sur—In 1974, a teacher here assigned to a remote village left his teaching job when he felt that his transfer to a nearer assignment seemed hopeless.

One day, while riding his horse and treading the same narrow trail going to his teaching assignment, teacher Melquiades Gaite felt as if he had already spent centuries in the same assignment, even though he was only in his fourth year.

He thought he had been doing the same thing every day without economic progress while the needs of his family mounted.

That very moment, without hesitation, he made the biggest decision in his life—leave the teaching profession, sell his horse and embark on poultry farming business.

"I sold my horse for P750, resigned from my teaching job and bought 100 broilers to start this poultry farm," Gaite says as he recalls the biggest decision in his life that gave his family the comforts they now enjoy.

After one year, he shifted to raising layers and concentrated on the production of fresh eggs.

Some 28 years later, the teacher is now the leading poultry entrepreneur in Bicol with an army of some 100,000 layers, supplying the region with fresh eggs every day.

Family-run

Gaite's children, who are all professionals in different fields of discipline, now run the poultry farm.

His son Alex, a civil engineer with masteral units in structural engineering from the University of Pittsburgh, now manages the production department of the poultry farm.

This younger Gaite, despite his educational credentials, is an unassuming manager who seems to have blended with the farm environment.

Anne, the eldest in the brood of eight, handles the marketing and distribution of eggs. She is an accountant.

After working for several years in a multinational drug company, she decided to work in their poultry farm.

The older Gaite confessed that he came from a very poor farming family in Buhi town.

He says he used to make both ends meet by bringing with him a sack of sweet potato during lean months when he was studying at the Camarines Sur State Agricultural College in the early '50s.

Work training

Helen, Gaite's wife and a retired teacher, relates that in their elementary years, their children were assigned to do important work in the farm like giving water to the layers and gathering eggs.

"We trained our children to appreciate the dignity of labor and inculcated in their young minds that everyone in the family must give his share," Helen explains.

Alex says he had several options when he graduated civil engineering (magna cum laude, his father revealed) but opted to work in their poultry farm because the job here is the job that he knows well.

This engineer is also an agriculturist or a fowl specialist at heart who can tell that there is something wrong with the way the workers do their job by just monitoring the egg production.

And he is also the formula master of the feeds that they produce for the chicks in the brooding house, the juveniles in the growing house and the layers.

Economies of scale

With the Gaite's poultry farm's scale of operation, its leadership in the poultry industry in the Bicol region remains unchallenged.

Gaite says he does not even worry about the influx of imported farm products under the World Trade Organization agreement because he has not heard of eggs being imported into the country.

He observes that the bigger the operation of their poultry farm is, the greater the advantage it earns.

Gaite says agrochemical companies offer significant discounts on their products, and technical supports are aplenty, which further boosted their operational advantage.

He says producing feeds for the poultry has been a major factor that reduced production costs and enhanced profitability.

A one-peso difference in the price of commercial feeds per one kilo is an additional P12,000 expense for the farm.

In the old compound of Gaite's poultry farm, a P3-million silo with a 50-ton storage capacity connected to a mechanized feed mixer readily produces the daily feed needs of the poultry farm.

Consequently, the production of poultry feeds absorbs the local corn production that at times Gaite says is not enough to supply their needs.

Waste product

Gaite says that as their operation expanded, the foul odor of chicken dung started to give them, and their neighbors, problems.

The farm, thus, studied ways to convert the waste into organic fertilizer.

He adds that the organic fertilizer production has brought additional income to the family enterprise, though its marketing is still wanting.

So far, a contract to supply 20,000 sacks of fertilizer a year to a government agency has already shown the business potential of this endeavor.

Gaite says he is optimistic that the organic fertilizer production from the wastes of the poultry farm could develop into another separate family enterprise someday.

Online employee training now available at e-IU

NOW, employee training need not be limited to multinational corporations and huge conglomerates. Entrepreneurs and employees of small and medium scale enterprises can also benefit from world-class training through the Internet, courtesy of the e-Informatics University (e-IU) – the country's first employee online training facility.

Delivered via the virtual environment of Purpletrain.com, the online learning service provider of Informatics, e-IU enables everyone to do their training anywhere and at anytime. Course materials are made available through the Internet and the learning process is supported by online training sessions conducted by qualified trainers of Informatics.

"Continuous education online is the perfect alternative to traditional methods of training," says Leo Riingen, president of Informatics. He explained that the present setup of arranging in-house sessions through the company's human resources group, or compelling employees to attend seminars outside the company, results in frequent downtime and loss of man hours. "With online training, employees can learn right at their desks, or even in the comfort of their homes," Riingen added.

e-IU offers top training modules such as People Management, Secrets of Top Sales Performers, Art of Customer Delight, and Effective Instruction Skills. These modules are delivered to nearly 40 countries worldwide through Informatics' headquarters in Singapore.

For more information on the online employee training, call 721-0672 or e-mail informatics@informatics.net.ph

Fresh, clean Hygeia now available

HYGEIA International, the makers of hygienic, antimicrobial feminine intimate apparel, is now locally available in leading clothing outlets nationwide. This is a welcome development for women who like to stay fresh and clean all day despite the hot summer weather.

Hygeia products (underwear and body tops) can absorb up to 40 percent more moisture than the more expensive, 100-percent cotton fabric that is used in many expensive underwear on the market. They stand apart for their long-lasting freshness and odor-resistant properties, which are sustained wash after wash.

Hygeia is recommended by gynecologists, dermatologists and pediatricians to help reduce the possibility of infections (mostly from urinary tract infection), vaginitis, feminine rash, and other skin irritations.

The fabric is made of fibers that are treated individually with a skin-friendly antimicrobial agent. This active ingredient has been safely and extensively used for over 30 years in both oral and skin products.

This prevents the overgrowth of harmful bacteria, fungi or yeast in the body, which like to breed and flourish in dark, moist conditions, and feed on proteins from perspiration and other body fluids and giving rise to odor.

Hygeia doesn't mask odor with perfumes or scents, but guards against the breakdown of these harmful body bacteria. This is because the antimicrobial agent is embedded into the knitted fiber.

Meanwhile, the core of the fiber, like a reservoir, constantly replenishes the effectiveness of the fiber surface, enabling its odor-resistant quality to last throughout the life of the garment. The cotton-rich fabric is more durable and keeps its shape better and longer than more expensive underwear that is made of 100-percent cotton.

The healthy, fresh and clean qualities make Hygeia not just ideal for pregnant or health-consciousness women, but anyone with an active lifestyle – at work, in the gym or simply travelling.

Hygeia comes in four colors (black, white, beige and gray) and in a variety of styles (for underwear--boxer, thong, French cut, contour, hipster, bikini, waist brief; for tops – body shirt, camisole and tank top).

MAKING THE OUTDOOR QUEST HAPPEN

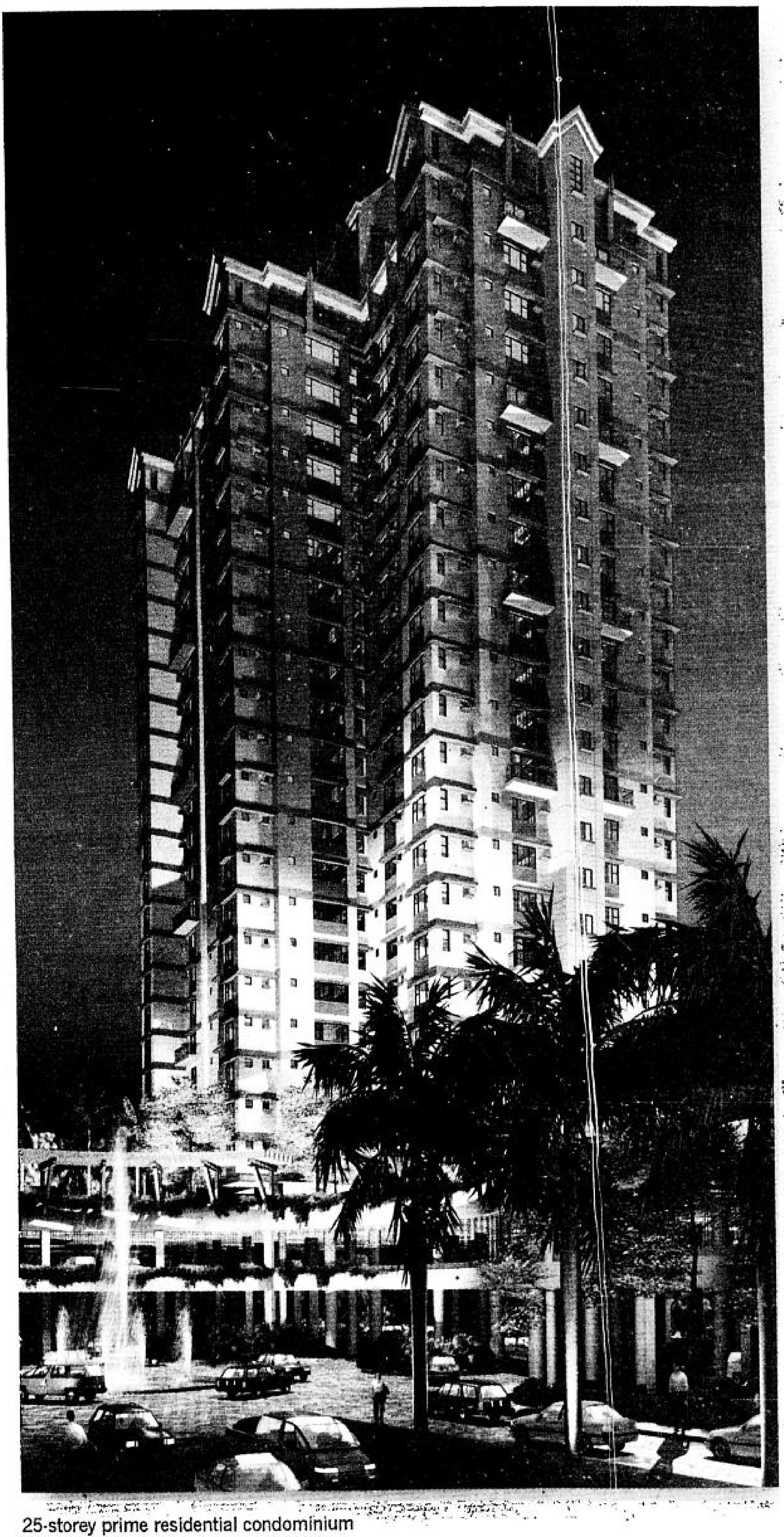
Del Monte 202, together with Campaigns and Grey and 'Game Plan', recently held its first race event dubbed 'The Great Outdoor Quest.' The event sought to strengthen the position of Del Monte 202 among the young with fit and active lifestyles. Shown are the racers and people who made 'The Great Outdoor Quest' possible. Standing, from left, are Rovilson Fernandez, Shelli Manuel, Emilio Cagmat, Miko Beltran, Jinno Rufino, Carlo Gatmaitan, Ramil De Jesus, Tricia Chiongbian, Rain Avanzado, Camille Javier, Natalia Uy, Frances Badelles-Bumanlag, Lorie Dionisio, Leah Santos, Carol de Leon, Candice Madamba. Seated are Willie Samson, Che Che Lazaro, Alex Castillo, Cherry Gutierrez and Jerri Gomez. Seated on the floor are Frederick Ocampo, Karen Borbon, Mel Lozano, Joy Ibay, Alla Vargas, Thumble Remigio, Giselle Dimaunahan, Gretchen Montelibano, Judith Torres and Ritchie Almadovar.

TESDA-LAGUNA
AYALA-G FIELD
Greenfield Estates

VIEW TO A SKILL

Ayala Land Inc, Ayala Greenfield Development Corp., Tesda, Laguna and barangay officials recently launched a skills training program for qualified residents of Barangays Maunong and Puting Lupa in Calamba City, Laguna at the Ayala Greenfield Estate Nature Park Clubhouse in Calamba. Dubbed 'Dagdag Kita sa Pamilya', various short but useful training seminars from June to December will be administered to an estimated 500 residents. At the MOA signing for the skills training program are, seated, from left, Roberto A. Chan, assistant vice president for external affairs, Ayala Land Inc., Yerma N. Saulon, Laguna provincial director, Tesda, Sotero Pamplona, barangay chair of Maunong, and Honorio Tolentino, barangay chair of Putting Lupa. Standing, from left, are Apollo B. Tanco, project manager of Ayala Greenfield Development Corp., Virgilio Andres Jr., environmental management specialist of the Laguna Environment and Natural Resources Office, and Laudemir Salac, executive assistant to the Laguna Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer.

City Living
Beyond Measure



25-storey prime residential condominium
Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City

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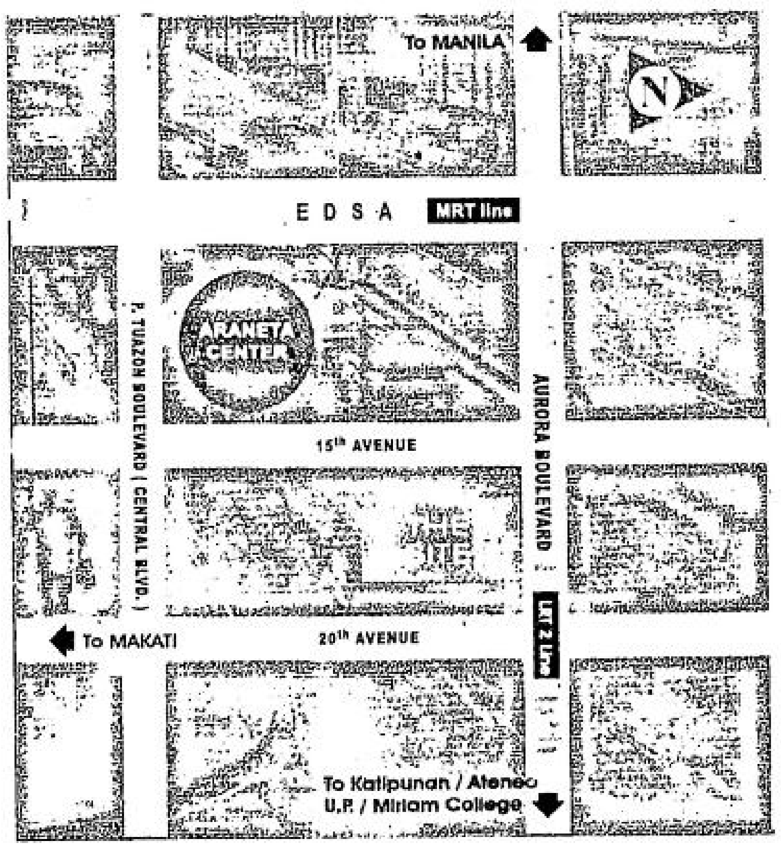

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ROBINSONS SUMMIT [illegible]
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Ayala Avenue, Mak[illegible]

FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2002
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LIFEST
Trend Spotting
DI
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

AS GOOD AS GOLD. Ben Farrales celebrates with a bang.
PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

His Deanship's manifest preeminence

LIFE-STYLED
Thelma Sioson San Juan

RIGHT after **Ben Farrales'** milestone fashion show last Monday, "F's" **Daphne Oseña** asked me what I thought of it. I said it showed what a man, after 50 years of hard labor, could do, and that is—anything and everything.

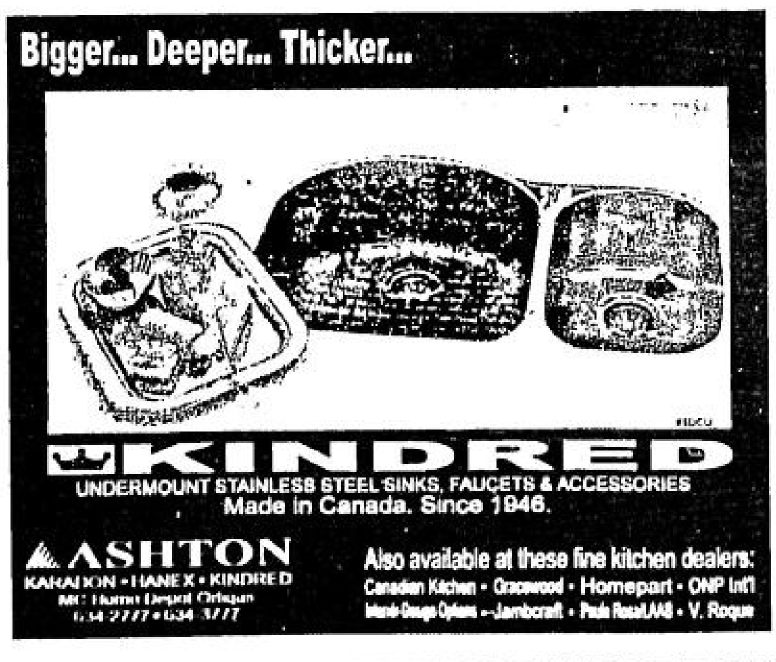
In mounting his 150-plus collection at the Makati Shangri-La, to celebrate his 50th year in the industry and his 70th birthday, Farrales literally recreated a lifetime worth of craftsmanship and design directions that spanned practically the fashion looks of half a century. But—and this showed a wisdom that comes only with age--he was circumspect enough to focus only on his strong lines through the decades, the fashion statements he had been known for.

The show, which ran more than an hour, had a put-together feel. While in younger hands it could have ended up as visual clutter or sheer confusion, Farrales made it cohesive by stepping on the brakes, where ideas were concerned, and by putting an artist's ego in check. Thus for a supposedly "vanity" show—he financed this career tribute himself—the man's vanity didn't become an imposition on the audience. Rather, the show served as a timely reminder, especially to the younger ones in the audience, of just how much the haute couturiers from Farrales' generation were—and still are—capable of, and how far ahead in Asia the Philippine fashion design was from the '50s to the '80s.

The show opened with Farrales' primary contribution to Philippine fashion (post-**Ramon Valera** era, that is)—draping. Silk jersey gowns in jewel colors were done in intricate draping—in the bias, or knotted, or "hanging." They were supple, they flowed and moved with the body. That has always been Farrales' strength—he can use a piece of fabric with great width, wrap it over the body yet give it shape and make it move to follow the body's contour. This is as graceful as women's fashion can be. In these show openers, Farrales brought us back to the high el-

HIS/ p.D4

BLACK tunic and revealing black lace



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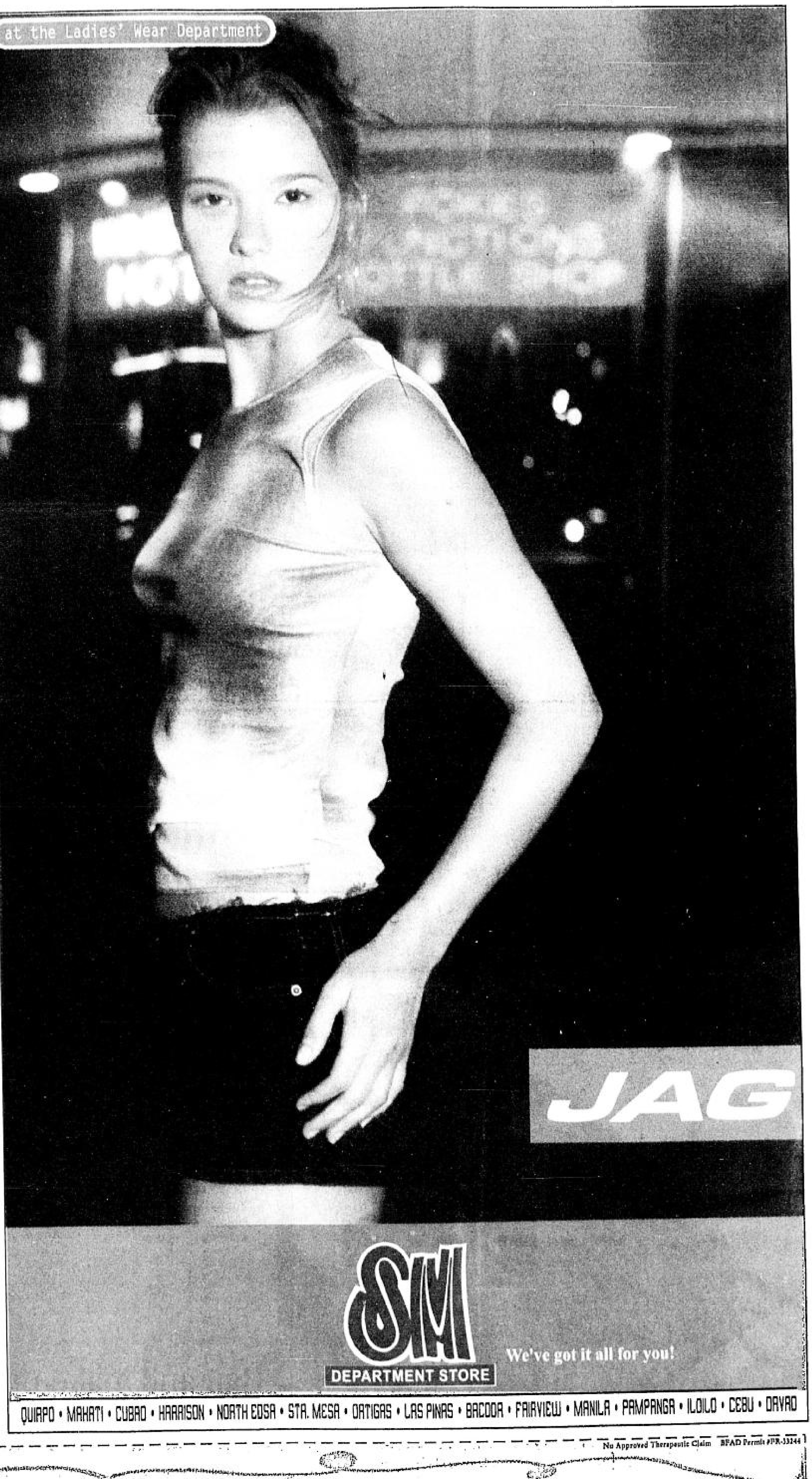

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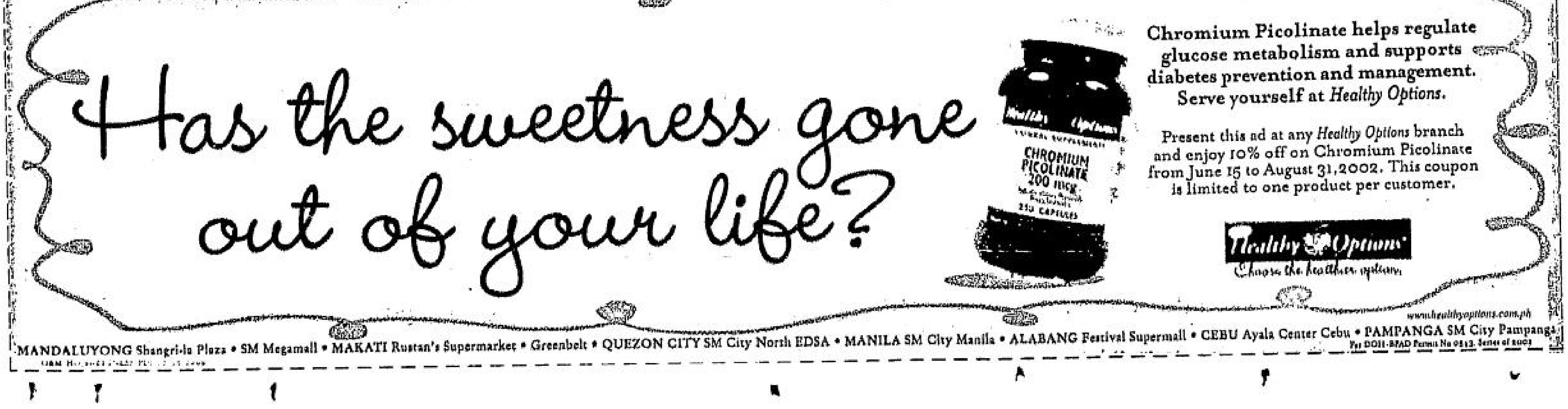

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Charmed and dangerous

EVERYONE who knows what it's like to be a girl knows just how complex it can be. With dozens of things on her mind from the simple (what to wear to a party) to the sublime (how to make the world a better place), she is a complicated creature with special needs and concerns that are uniquely her own.

Avon understands just what it's like to be a girl. The company for women, and now the company for girls, introduces "She's Charmed and Dangerous" (SC&D), an exciting new line just for girls that reflects the sprightly attitude and trendy lifestyle of teens today.

Combining "dainty" with "daring," the SC&D girl is innocent but curious. She's smart, strong and savvy, confident and creative. She's fresh, fun and decidedly different, someone with a lot of flare and at the same time, finesse.

The line presents three fun and funky characters—Starr, Skye and Luna—who, like all girls, have their own distinct looks and unique personalities. Starr is independent, responsible, flexible, down-to-earth and has a good sense of humor. She's into Alicia Keys and Mandy Moore. She has a diverse range of interests, from cooking to public speaking to track and field. She's the girl who hangs out at the student council office on schooldays and winds down on weekends at the movies and Starbucks.

Skye is the artist. She's "cutesy," charming and sensitive. She's the girl with the big heart who likes working for social organizations, and is an environmentalist. She's also into cheerleading and beach volleyball. Her hangouts are the mall and the beach.

Luna is the athlete. She's into all kinds of sports and likes action/suspense movies and video games. She is straightforward, honest, practical and carefree. She also likes hassle-free dressing and is most comfortable in baby tees, jeans and sneakers. Her pet peeve is judgmental people. She's a fan of alternative rock. She can be spotted at sports events and outdoor activities.

The "She's Charmed and Dangerous" line includes hot, hip apparel, must-have accessories and jewelry, trendy intimate apparel and just-for-girls cosmetics. Available at all Avon outlets in July.

"She's Charmed and Dangerous" was launched in Bloomingdales in Spring 2002 and is now one of the hottest teen brands in the US. Avon Philippines is the first to launch SC&D in the region.

LEFT: Character tee in starlight blue. right: SC&D logo shirt in white, bootleg jeans in dark blue denim with fuchsia piping on sides, girls shades in lollipop red, denim mailbag in blue denim with pink trims and graphic watch

LEFT: Sleeveless baby tee in black with fuchsia piping and metalling print, bootleg jeans in dark blue denim with fuchsia piping on sides, denim thong sandals with black denim foot bed and scarlet thong upper. Right: Printed striped tee in candy pink with animal print, cropped twill pants in raincloud with contrast stitching, swirly heart necklace and graphic watch

Search for the year's best hairdresser is on

DO you have the skill and creativity to make that winning cut? Then join Schwarzkopf's Philippine Hairdressing Awards 2002, the most prestigious search for the country's most talented hairdressers.

Titles to be bestowed are: the highly-coveted Philippine Hairdresser of the Year; and awards for the Commercial Style, Men's Style, Avant-Garde, Young Artist and the new Best Creative Team categories.

Past winners of the contest include some of the country's most creative stylists such as Nikki Bacay of Piandre Salon (Philippine Hairdresser of the Year and Avant-Garde winner), Victor Ortega of Emphasis Salon (Commercial Style), Nelson P. Cruz of Nelson P. Cruz Salon (Men's Style) and Renante Cobcobo of Ocean Salon (Young Artist of the Year).

The competition is open to all professional and commercial hairdressers with a minimum of three years working experience. Those joining the Young Artist category should be below 25 years old and working for a minimum of two years and a maximum of four.

Participants in the Best Creative Salon Team must have a minimum of three professional and commercial hairdressers working at the same salon or salon chain. All contestants must have a minimum of two years working experience and may submit entries covering any of the main categories such as the Commercial, Men's Style and Avant-Garde. A professional picture of the salon must be included in the entry.

To join, submit four photos (18 cm x 24 cm) in unmounted black-and-white or color prints in portrait format with entry forms. Contestants may use wigs and hairpieces but not in more than two of their four prints, except in the Avant-Garde category, where they can be used in all four prints.

For those who will use wigs and hairpieces or computer imaging, submit Polaroids of the model before imaging, together with a portfolio of prints to demonstrate you are working on real hair.

Entries must be submitted to the Top Style offices on or before Aug. 31. The special awards presentation will be held on Oct. 15. All winners will compete in the Asia Hairdressing Awards in Hong Kong.

Schwarzkopf is a partner of the world's best salons in over 100 countries. Its product line includes a wide range of professional hair care, styling and coloring products.

The German-based company launched the Asia Hairdressing Awards in 1998 as its way of recognizing, honoring and rewarding exemplary skill and talent in the industry. Its goal is to encourage established names to continually strive to be the best, and to motivate newcomers as well as discover fresh talents.

Entry forms are available at Top Style Marketing, Inc., the exclusive Philippine licensee of Schwarzkopf products, with offices at 25PA Eisenhower Condominium, Eisenhower Street, Greenhills, San Juan. Call 726-8507 to 08 and 722-0278.

PURE linen shirt and Capri in grape

POWDER blue all-linen blouse and matching Capri

Cool, calm and collected in natural fabrics

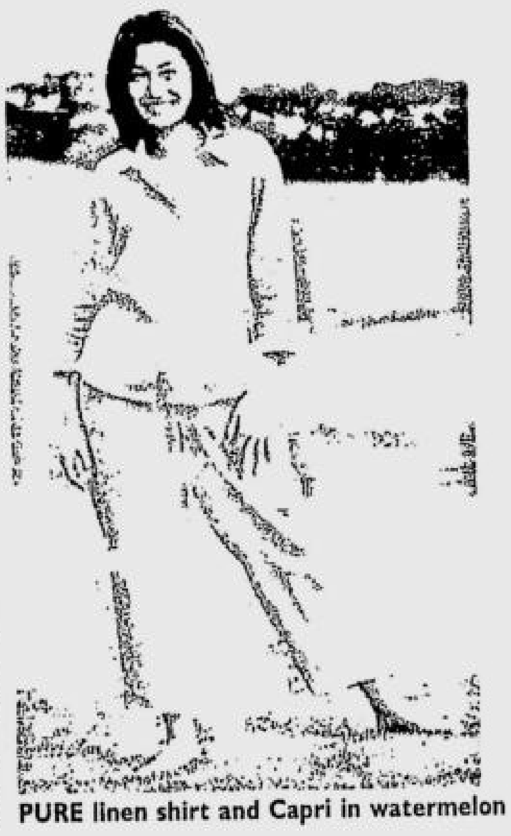
KIKO Comfort is a fashion line uses 100-percent natural fabrics of linen and cotton rendered in modern cuts and style.

In its Spring collection, Kiko brings ease back into leisure dressing. Kiko's short-sleeved polos, three-fourth-sleeved blouses and Capri pants surprise with unexpected details in tailoring and workmanship. Calmly hugging the waist are slit bands for excellent fitting minus the uneasiness. The gartered Capris, with the more gentle closures of traditional buttons.

The color scheme allows monochromatic to mix-and-match dressing, borrowing hues from the freshness of fruits, from the darker hues of grape to the eye-catching shades of watermelon and mint julep.

Kiko Comfort's Spring Collection is distributed by Fashion Specialists, Inc. and is now available at the 2/L Glorietta 4, Ayala Center.

All-linen short-sleeved blouse in mint julep



PURE linen shirt and Capri in watermelon

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Hair and make-up trends winners announced

THE "HAIR and Makeup Trends 2002" was recently held at the PICC. Dubbed as the "Oscars for Filipino Hairdressers," hair and makeup artists from all over the country gathered for this year's event.

The affair was graced by senatorial spouse Mila Drilon and guest judges from Thailand, Myanmar, Taiwan, Japan and Macau.

"This is a friendly competition showcasing the craftsmanship of every Filipino hairdresser," said Ricky Reyes, founder of Fil-Hair Coop, prime mover of the annual competition.

The contest winners were Gilbert Sanchez (Commercial Makeup), Philip Yalong (Men's Cut classical), Jackie Rivera (Men's Cut Open), Edward Fajardo (Ladies' Styling), Sahak Khurshidy (Bridal Makeup), Jeffrey Mendoza Guro (Star Look-alike), Hennie Arcayena (Ordinary Winding), and Ave Viola (Fantasy Winding). Ronald Sunguad (Champion for Ladies' Cut and Fantasy Makeup) and Angelita Sogocio (Champion for Manicure) were overall champions.

HERE comes the bride and she is one of the models for the Bridal Makeup Category during the "Hair and Makeup Trends 2000."

'Balanchine!' in Antipolo

THE PHILIPPINE Ballet Theater stages "Balanchine!," a tribute to the famous and influential choreographer George Balanchine, today, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., at the Assumpta Theater in Antipolo City. Call 727-5651, 724-3476 or 697-2357 (Assumption College).

GOINGS-ON

CARTOON EXHIBIT. The Japan Foundation Manila Office and the Shangri-La Plaza will open today, 6:30 p.m., the 5th Asian Cartoon Exhibition on the 4/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City. The exhibit will run until July 26.

BOOK. Distinguished Filipino librarian Dr. Juan C. Buenrostro Jr. has come out with the first book on "Abstracting and Indexing Made Easy." Published and distributed by Great Books Trading, the book is practical and functional as it contains descriptions, definitions, guidelines, step-by-step procedures, sample abstracts as well as exercises. Call 927-9858 or 926-4708.

FAIR. The Philippines, through the Department of Trade and Industry's export promotions arm, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem), joins seven other Asean member countries in the Asean Fashion Goods Exhibitions at the Asean Japan Center Permanent Exhibition Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

AZM Export, Tony Co Handicraft and Paulino's Abaca Handicrafts Inc. represent the country in this three-month activity that is ongoing until Aug. 30. A selling mission, coupled with business meetings for prospective buyers, is scheduled on July 14-20.

Chosen for their suitability, price acceptability and their great potential in the Japanese market, the three companies' product lines include fashion accessories such as bags, hats, and houseware items made from natural materials like abaca, raffia, bamboo, *bangkuan*, wicker, seagrass and *lupiz*. The natural beauty of these products, as well as their fashionable design and comfort factor, enjoy high patronage in the Japanese market.

RAFFLE WINNERS. Generoso N. Menez Jr. of Welfareville Compound, Mandaluyong City is now the proud owner of a Mitsubishi pick-up truck and recipient of P50,000 worth of Big R gift certificates in the recently concluded "Hanep Buhay" raffle promo of the Robinsons Malls, Robinsons Department Store, Robinsons Supermarket and Big R Supercenter.

Menez, together with his wife Maria Belen, visited Robinsons Supermarket-Galleria branch where they purchased P1,402.35 worth of groceries. Their single purchase qualified them to four raffle coupons, one of which rewarded them the grand prize. Menez plans to sell the truck to buy an agricultural land in Bohol.

A brand-new house and lot in South Square Village, Gen. Trias, Cavite, a part of the raffle's grand prize, was won by Gina D. Corpuz of SSS Village, Marikina City.

MIDYEAR SALE. Homeplus, the furniture division of Abenson Appliances, is holding its midyear sale until July 14 with over 100 furnitures on sale. Homeplus' "Half Year-Half Price" sale includes stylish and inexpensive bedroom furniture for newlyweds. Homeplus also offers computer tables, chairs and study tables for students at 50-percent discount. Also available are living and dining room sets, and entertainment racks. Visit any of the 22 Homeplus outlets in all Abenson branches.

PERFORMANCE. "Concert Nights at the Old Walls" opens its July series of performances as it presents the Musica Sacra Filipinas in an evening of varied choral songs tomorrow at the Puerta Real Gardens in Intramuros.

Musica Sacra Filipinas Inc., conducted by Nomer de Guia, is composed of professionals and students belonging to the United Church of Christ in the Philippines.

"Concert Nights at the Old Walls" is a public service cultural project of the Department of Tourism, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Intramuros Administration. The concert starts at 6 p.m. Admission is free. Call 527-2102 local 6031.

EXHIBIT. Get the best deals on the latest and best in audio and video equipment at the BPI Installment Madness Exhibition at the Glorietta Activity Center until July 7.

Philips Consumer Electronics is offering the best deals and great value for money when you purchase any of its wide range of TV sets, mini hi-fi systems, DVD and VCD players using your BPI credit card's Special Installment Plan.

With a purchase of select Philips products, you can also get exciting freebies. Get a movie or karaoke VCD, VCD organizer or a microphone for free when you buy the FW-V780 wOOx mini-hifi system or the FW-V520 MP3 mini-hifi, as well as other hi-tech audio systems. Or you can take your pick of Philips Real Flat TVs, Super VCD Players with MP3-CD playback, and get a TV stand free for your set.

ANNIVERSARY. De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) is celebrating its 25th year this month. The year-long event, dubbed as "DLSU-D @ 25: Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence and Service," features workshops, lecture series, exhibits and outreach programs.

The university is also embarking on its annual search for outstanding Caviteños. Now on its 11th year, the search is centered on Caviteños who have committed themselves to service and are living models of Lasallian values.

The university is accepting nominations for all qualified individuals or groups. The winner will be granted the Gawad Bayani Award at the university's annual commencement exercise. Call 844-7832 local 3003 or (046) 416-4435

GENEROSO N. Menez Jr. (center), with his family, holds the key of his Mitsubishi pick-up truck loaded with P50,000 worth of Big R gift certificates during the formal turnover at the Robinsons Metro East. With them are (from left) Jasmine Basa, RLC senior ad and promo officer; Third Salanguit, BIG R senior marketing coordinator; and Eric Viray, Robinsons Metro East Complex manager.

THE MENDOZA Brothers (from left, pianist Edel, 15, violinist Kris, 19, and Asa, 21) will perform in "Himig ng Salinlahi" on July 7 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Little Theater. The US-based musicians are grandchildren of National Artist Felipe de Leon.

BPI Express Cash flash-about-town!

Enter a city of freebies and discounts with the BPI Express Cash Flash-About-Town! It's one fleshy phenomenon that lets you enjoy the perks of being an Express Cash holder in the most happening spots around the metro.

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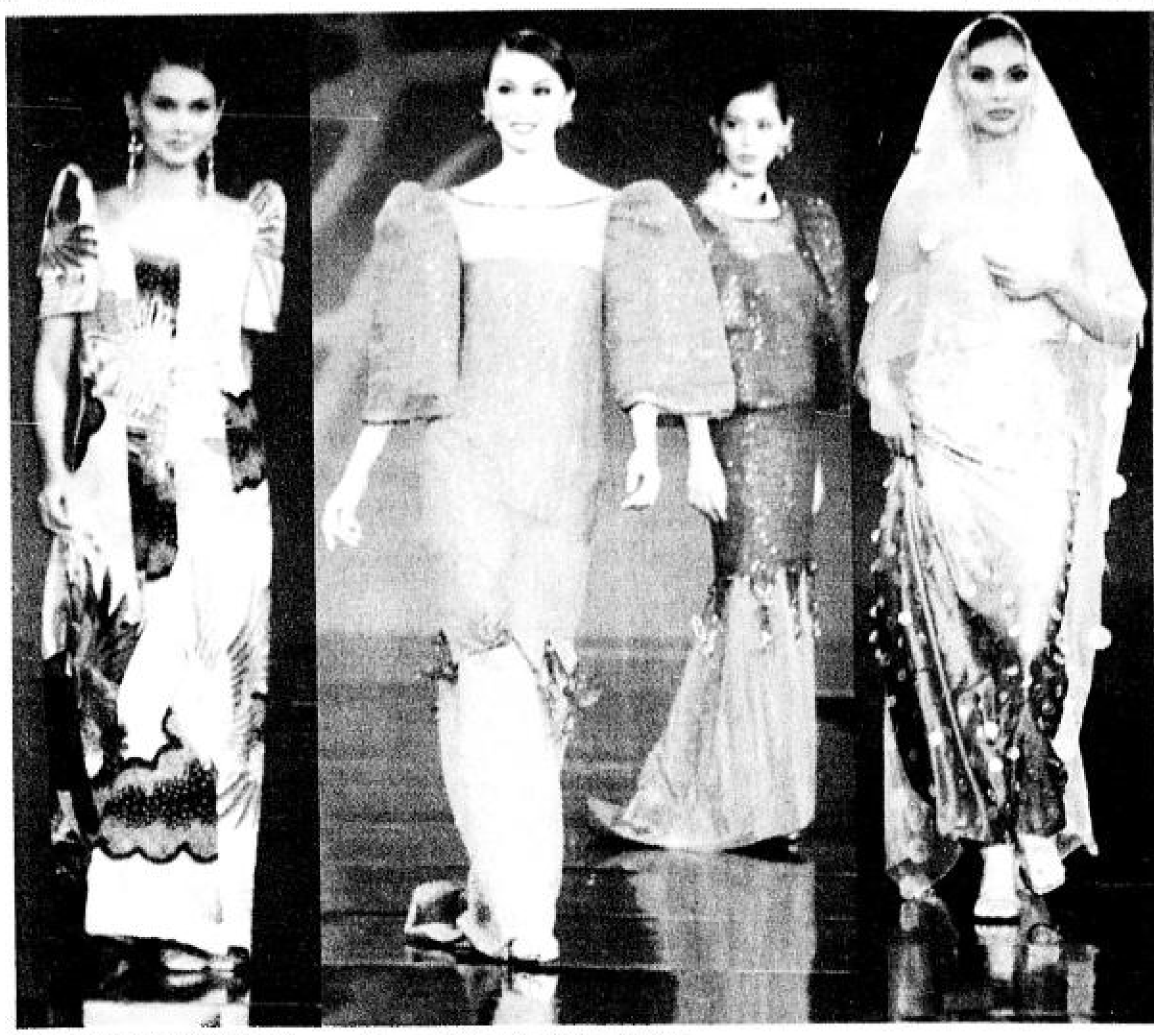
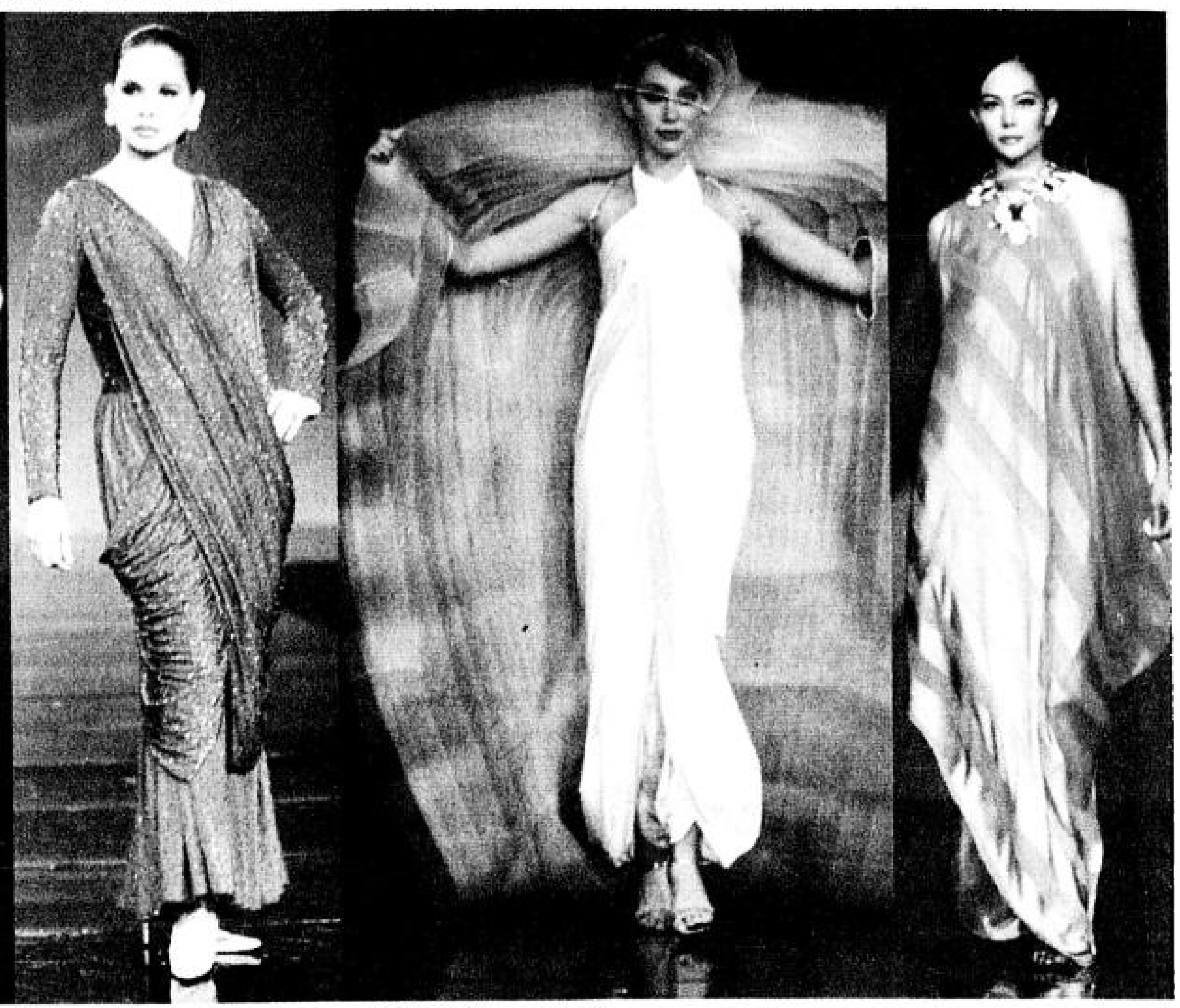


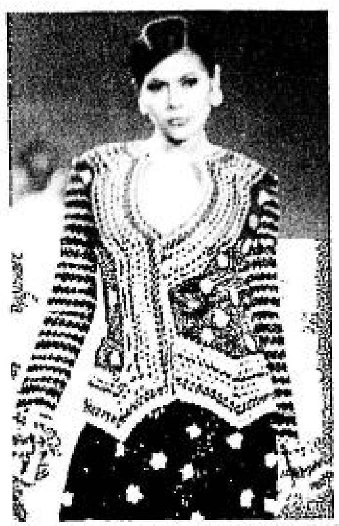
VINTAGE FARRALES. Recreations of his milestone designs

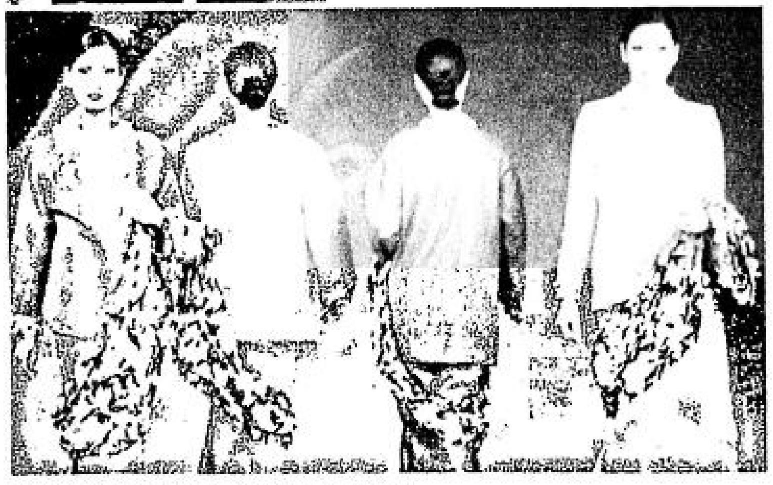


NEW takes on draping

His Deanship's manifest preeminence

After 50 years in fashion, Ben Farrales proves he can do anything and everything





SIGNATURE BEN. Muslim segment

From page D1

egance and old-world femininity of the '50s—an era long gone, no doubt. It helped tremendously that he chose the divas of Philippine modeling to wear these gowns, all of them retired now but who could simply walk the walk, as they say—**Tweetie de Leon Gonzalez**, **Apples Aberin**, **Alta Tan**, **Marina Benipayo**, **Annette Coronel**, **Abbygale Arenas**, and the night's star model, **Melanie Marquez**.

From hereon, segment after segment was a showstopper. From the draping, with a brief opening spiel of **Eddie Mercado** and speech by **Tina Maristela Ocampo**, the collection jumped to resortwear—batik-inspired loose pants with *jusi* jackets over men's "*sandos*." This was as young as the collection could get.

The segments stood for design milestones in Farrales' career. These were:

Caftan. In chiffon, silk and other natural cool fabrics. He gave it different touches—crocheted, embroidered, glittered.

Muslim look. This is Farrales' signature look. This time, however, he went way beyond the sarongs and the other Muslim-inspired gowns he'd shown through the decades. He went beyond Mindanao, in fact, way to the exotic elegance of Afghanistan—the rich mystique of this culture. The moment I saw a few numbers of this, I knew right away where Farrales was heading to—he was aligning his collection with the "Afghan" look (call it the Taliban look) so in vogue now in European collections. Rich, intricately crafted fabrics, shroud-like silhouettes, old-world shimmer and glitter. Today's Afghan-inspired look is all about bringing back a sense of mystery into women's fashion.

Outstanding among these numbers were the formal gowns with the hoop skirts paired with gold metallic vests, worn with gossamer veil. The skirts used dyed Muslim fabric, with the dyeing producing a good prism of colors. These numbers could have gone over the top but Farrales apparently knew how to make them elegant and cutting-edge, not outlandish.

Terno. It was a coup that Farrales retrieved a few of the famous *ternos* he'd made through the decades, including the avant-garde obi *ternos* (made of the Japanese obi) and the tambourine *terno*, which used Filipino necklaces strung around the bodice.

Black-and-whites. They came in a universe of prints—florals, stripes, polka dots, houndstooth, among others. Most of these numbers were in flowing organza, with hanky-drop hemlines. As in the caftan, Farrales' emphasis here was movement—the silhouette and fabric enhanced the body's movement.

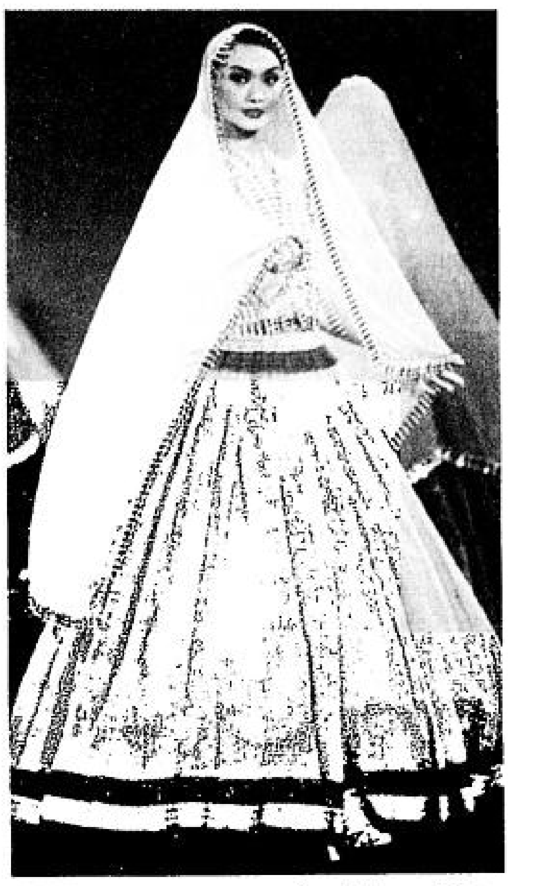
Black lace. Fully beaded black tunics, hugging the body like a tube up to the mid-thigh, were paired with dainty transparent (unlined) black lace that moved, again, like flowing panels. The structured tube was softened by a sabrina neckline. To me, these were among the most elegant numbers.

In all these, through the adept use of draping, intricate construction, techniques such as bias and attached paneling, Farrales conveyed the message that his clothes were designed for movement—cool, fluid, very feminine. You could never miss the point that designers of his league and era could boast of their knowledge of construction.

He used flamboyant accessorizing—silk flowers on the neck or sleeves, *capiz* circles on the sleeves. He ended his collections, predictably, with gold numbers—ranging from gold lamé trench coat to the finale dress coat in ivory with gold embellishment.

Farrales contemporized his collection—it must be his luck that the caftans and the Muslim look are so in vogue now, and that in ornamentation and feel, fashion is going back to the rich and the ornate. But also, he was smart not to have tried the young and hip lines, for that is not his market anyway. Farrales can be contemporary while eschewing hip. His clientele wouldn't have settled for the latter.

ONE of two bridal gowns



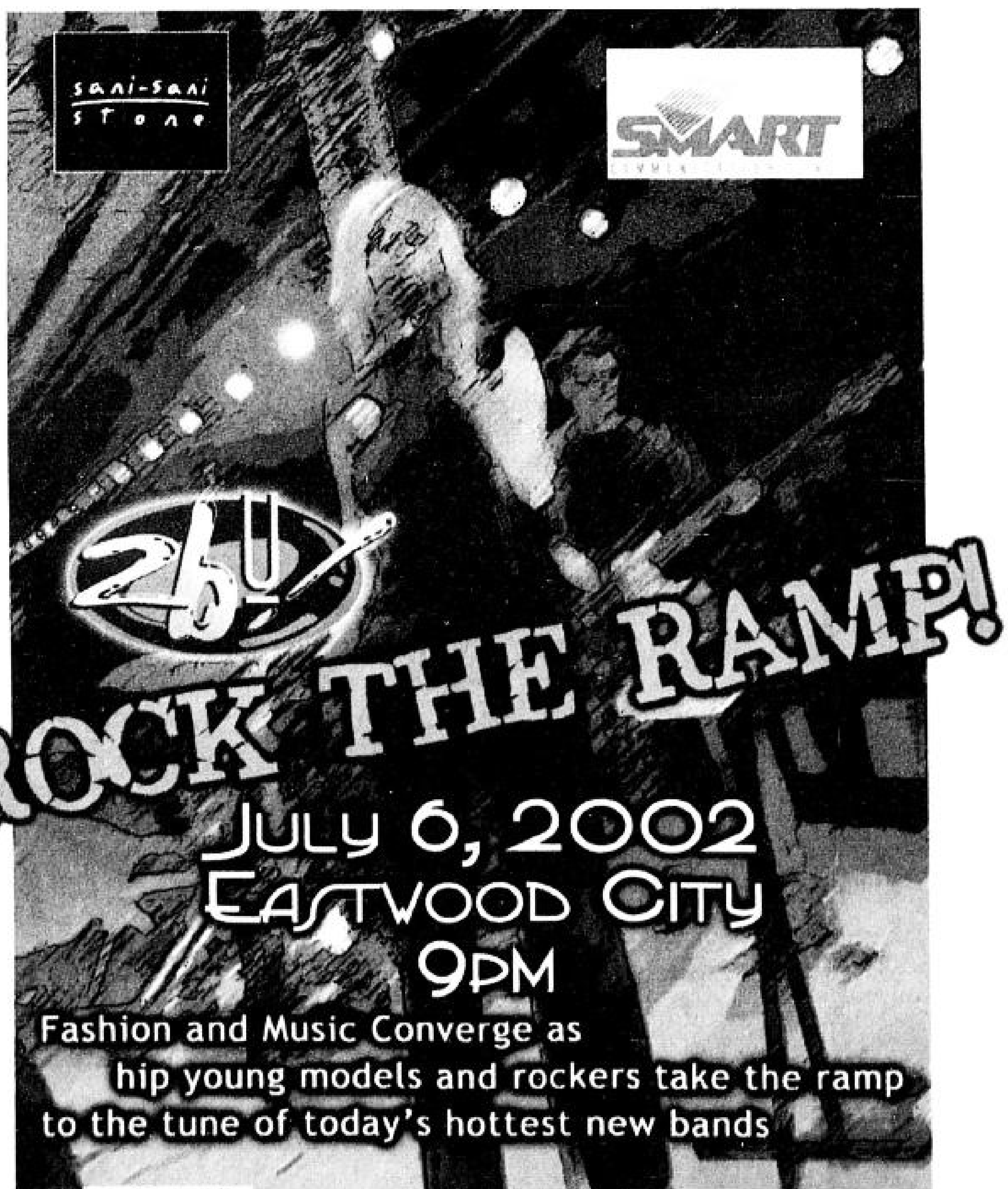
GOLD vest, gossamer veil and hoop skirt equal elegance.

FLUID and feminine

The segments were interrupted by tributes given by Farrales' old-time friends and colleagues, including **Rosa Rosal** who talked sense extemporaneously, **Mary Prieto**, and **Aurora Pijuan**. Given to guests were copies of a book written by **Abe Florendo**, designed by **Danilo Franco**, with photos by **George Tapan** and photo styling by Tina Maristela Ocampo—all longtime collaborators of Farrales. The book narrates the making of a Ben Farrales.

The show-stealer, predictably, was Melanie Marquez, who still looks good and moves well on the ramp, except that in doing one twirl too many—no doubt, to exude the elegance of her Muslim gown—she turned around right smack—almost!—onto a panel as she was about to exit the stage. Not even **Joey Espino** and **Ogie Atos**, the show's directors,

RESORTWEAR. Loose batik trousers with loose *jusi* shirts



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BLACK-AND-WHITE segment

could have designed a better exit.

It was obvious how Farrales didn't hold back on costs to create this collection. But it wasn't the bottom line that was outstanding here, but the extent of craftsmanship, design knowledge, time and effort poured into it.

Well, not everyone makes it to 70, not every career makes it to 50—at the top all the way. Not every day do we come across a Ben Farrales.

Briefly: Rock and **Ces Drilon** are opening a book/magazine store and art gallery at the Loop. That's what you call the ground floor of the Eugenio Lopez Communication Center (ABS-CBN) building, which is gradually turning into a resto/retail sprawl. Rock and Ces' new venture called Magnet Plus opens on July 10... Leave it to **Patis Tesoro** to think Filipiniana every time. She is coming out with Ninay, the Filipino doll (equivalent of Barbie?) that's especially handcrafted, designed by Patis and painted under the direction of **Romulo Galicano**. The complete collection will be launched at Club Filipino on July 12... Fr. **Jose Ma. de Leon** will give an interesting talk: "Unraveling the Secrets of Personality, An Introduction to the Enneagram," July 6-7, at the Center for Health and Creative Arts (Chacra, tel. 434-5381). Enneagram is an ancient system of classifying human personalities into nine types, which you can use to understand behavior. It should be interesting to learn this from a Jesuit.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

Real People. True Stories.

"My job and family keep me 'young on the inside' – on the outside, it's definitely Imedeen! It's not just for your face -- over-all conditioning talaga!"

Zina Rosales,
events planner, mother of two teenagers,
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Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis, second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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Jollibee Journal

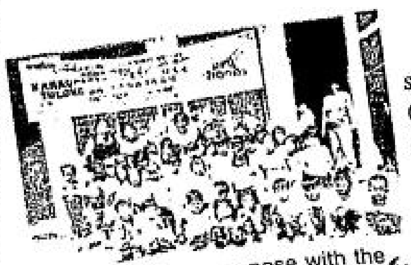
Kwentong kutsero in Jollibee Vigan

A family goes on a drive-thru calesa ride at the Jollibee-Vigan store.

The charming old town of Vigan boasts of cobble-stone streets, turn-of-the-century houses, a well-preserved church and courtyard, and a Jollibee store that welcomes Ilocanos and tourists alike, typically seen riding on horse-drawn carriages or calesas.

Calesas are still a popular mode of transportation in Vigan. It's no wonder that some customers drive-thru Jollibee Vigan in calesas to order their favorite *Langhap-Sarap* meals. Take it from the horse's mouth, *at home sila sa Jollibee*!

Big hearts and helpful hands at Jollibee



Teacher volunteers pose with the kids of Baranggay Doña Imelda in Quezon City.

Jollibee stores in SM Centerpoint and Aurora Araneta joined forces to help tutor kids of Barangay Doña Imelda in Quezon City in time for back-to-school.

The Jollibee staff and crew, together with volunteers from participating NGOs and the recipient *barangay*, launched the *Karagdagang Kaalaman tulong sa Kabataan*, a week-long tutorial class to help kids in their Mathematics and Reading subjects.

Aside from the lessons, kids were treated to free jolly snacks and goodies. Special awards were given to youngsters who completed the tutorials and performed actively in class.

Judging from the warm response, Jollibee plans to continue the tutorial classes in August to be able to reach out to more kids and help them realize their dreams. *Kaya mo, kid!*

Taekwondo your way to health with Jollibee

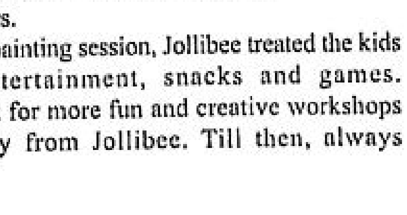
Future Taekwondo Jins of the Superkids Club perform martial arts moves.

Superkids Club members of the Jollibee store in Silang, Cavite donned their white uniforms and colorful belts for a fun and intense Taekwondo workout at the Infant Jesus Academy.

The month-long workshop was conducted by Mr. Edwin Ambulo, a recognized Taekwondo black belter. Kids were taught basic and advance martial arts movements guaranteed to help them achieve both a sound mind and body.

Jollibee hopes to encourage the young to be more active in sports and to start living a healthier lifestyle even at an early age. Remember kids, bee happy, healthy and wise!

A day of paint and pottery at Jollibee Farmer's Plaza



Jollibee poses with the happy young painters of Jollibee New Farmer's Plaza.

A group of 30 young artists painted their way to the Jollibee store in Farmer's Plaza, Cubao for a Ceramic Painting Workshop. Assisted by Store Marketing Officer Joy Camaro, these future artisans had a day of fun and friendship, painting cups and pots in bright and cheerful colors.

After the painting session, Jollibee treated the kids to some entertainment, snacks and games.

Watch out for more fun and creative workshops for kids only from Jollibee. Till then, always bee happy!

For feedback, comments, or suggestions please write to:
Jollibee Journal
c/o The Marketing Division,
Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas
Center, Pasig City, Philippines
journal@jollibee.com.ph

bee happy

PALAZZO bed

CONTEMPORARY office set

BEDERWIER collection

Some fine things for the thirtysomething

Renditions of excellent wood furniture with a nod to the classic and a dash of the contemporary

By James P. Ong
Contributor

"I HAVE no design background but I have a good feel for proportion and design," says Fritz de Lange, owner of Renditions, which specializes in heirloom-quality tables, chairs and bed made only of *narra* and *tanguile.*

The "proportion" De Lange refers to is that intangible factor that sets his pieces apart from those made by other local furnishers. It's knowing how a solid brass pull could add an entirely different aesthetic dimension to an otherwise dreary buffet table. Or, less grandly, knowing how to adjust the height of a chair or a bed so that it looks well proportioned.

De Lange (his grandfather was Dutch, but he himself is very Filipino) has been in the business for over 10 years. He started out as an exporter to the United States.

The Asian economic crisis in 1997 dealt a blow to the venture, making it increasingly difficult to compete with other low-cost Asian manufacturers in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. To make it worse, even the local market was flooded with cheap Asian imports.

Going on survival mode, De Lange decided to develop a local base and, in 1999, he opened Renditions (4/L Festival Supermall, Filinvest City, Alabang, Muntinlupa; tel. 850-3780).

It turned out to be a wise move. His clientele now includes old-name families who live in posh condominium buildings like Pacific Plaza and gated subdivisions like nearby Ayala Alabang.

De Lange describes his pieces as "modern contemporary" and his designs are conservative but not stuffy. Their strength lies in the details, quality and craftsmanship.

To ensure that the wood doesn't shrink or warp over time, Renditions itself dries its wood, usually keeping it in a kiln for up to 30 days.

With the price for a bed ranging from P30,000 to P50,000, Renditions' furniture is not for a family that's just starting out, although some lucky ones do get to own them.

Meredith Illenberger, the store's manager, remembers one customer shopping around for something to give in a wedding where she was a principal sponsor. She took a fancy to a chest made of narra and remarked how that would have to be the perfect gift—and container for the hundreds of dollars she was planning to give the soon-to-be-married couple.

Aside from generous godparents, however, the store's main target is the 35-and-up market ready to invest in furniture to be passed on to future children and grandchildren. And because the store doesn't believe in mass manufacturing (it makes a maximum of seven pieces per design), shoppers are assured of owning unique rare pieces.

For those who want to start small, there are also accessories on sale like lamps, desk accessories and jewelry boxes made of uneven-sized wood that couldn't be used for bigger furniture. They are just as precious. The lamps, for instance, use solid-brass bulb receptacles.

For thirtysomethings who appreciate the fine things in life, that could be the start of a bright life ahead.

RADIAL living room collection

COSMOPOLITAN dining set

ISSABELLINE settee

Indiscriminate tree-planting abets forest loss

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

SOME people plant trees to show they care for the environment, and to get media mileage in the process. It wouldn't be so bad (we need to plant all the trees we can), if only the trees were planted right.

But the work isn't as simple as that. Use the activity for publicity if you wish, but reforesting is not just planting seedlings to create a cluster of trees in an area. There's the matter of choosing the kind of trees to plant, and the place to plant them in.

With so many tree-planting activities going on to commemorate Earth Day and special historic events, the country should be covered with forests by now. But it is not. On the contrary, our forests are being decimated.

When we started out in search of answers to this problem, the opening we got was: the lack of monitoring. Some groups that adopt tree-planting events for their crusades and campaigns, usually don't return to the planted area. They don't monitor the progress—or failure—of their project, to see at least where they had gone wrong, or what they did right.

Another answer that seems to have greater impact: Trees are planted with other trees without the proper study on how well they get along together. Some trees are voracious. They eat up all the space and nutrients of the soil to the detriment of other species growing with them.

This happens on sidewalks and in places we tend to pass every day, without even noticing the "murder" going on. The weaker trees are just elbowed out of position until they die. Then, only the "stronger" ones remain.

Well, you may say, at least there are still trees around. True, but that's not how we should plant—or treat—our trees. Not if we want to be considered true environmentalists, not if we are heads of environmental organizations. We should, at the very least, know what we are doing, and deserve the publicity we seek.

There are two books that wannabe tree planters should read if they wish to gain insights into that activity. They tell, each in its own way, that our forests are disappearing because, one, we are cutting them down indiscriminately; and, two, we often don't know that we're planting trees in the wrong places.

Both situations spell trouble for our forests, but perhaps it's the second reason that needs to be looked into more because it's the least familiar.

The first book, which explains forestry technology, is a thesis by Ernesto M. Alvarez of UP Los Baños titled "Monitoring the Spread of Large-Leaf Mahogany (Swietenia Macrophylla King) in Lowland Dipterocarp Forest in Mt. Makiling, Laguna," and aimed to find the underlying relationship between exotic and endemic trees under prevailing environmental factors.

The other book, published by Centro Escolar University, is "Philippine Forest, Our Living Heritage," whose observations dovetail those of Alvarez's study, although the two books were published separately and on different years.

What do they tell us? Alvarez, proving his points by figures, tables and photographs, concludes that some species of trees, often those not originally from a forest (referred to as "exotic") can "invade" it and take over so that indigenous or endemic species cannot survive. Large-Leaf Mahogany, observes Alvarez, is proliferating in the Makiling Forest Reserve and threatening the natural species there. At first glance, there does not seem to be anything wrong in the Makiling reserve, but that isn't so.

Conditions in the mahogany plantation, observes Alvarez, are unfavorable for propagating wildlings (uncultivated seeds) of indigenous tree species, or even the mahogany's own wildlings.

He notes that there are very thick layers of leaves, called "litter mats," found under the canopy of deciduous mahogany plantations that deter the wildlings from germinating. He sees this infertility as caused by the drying effect of the litter mats.

Many moisture-loving trees, like the *hagimit* and *tibig* species of Ficus, as well as members of the Dipterocarp family, like the *bagtikan*, *guijo* and white *lauan* cannot grow in the midst of this "invasion" and so, what would otherwise be a lush natural forest is diminished.

In "Philippine Forests," another example of a diminished forest is cited. A double-spread photo of a thriving forest has a caption that tells us not all is well in that arbor: "Loboc (in Bohol) is one of the more successful reforested watersheds in the country. Unfortunately, the trees are exotic, rather than endemic, failing to bring back any wildlife."

Alvarez urges those who make tree-planting part of their crusades or agenda (like some politicians forever being photographed planting trees) to look, consult and research, whichever should come first, before they plant. Like the mahogany, some trees elbow out others, which is not exactly healthy reforestation.

Environmentalists and conservationists could make it part of their programs to monitor those tree-planting activities, if only to make sure all the effort and energy, not to mention seedlings, are not wasted. Better still, there should be a consulting and information office to give the nod to those tree-planting events.

The overall message that Alvarez and his colleagues at UPLB, as well as the CEU editors, impart is: Know what you're planting, and where. Are those the right trees for that place, or, inversely, is that place right for those trees? The answer can make a lot of difference to our forests.

Next: Protectors of our forests and other heroes

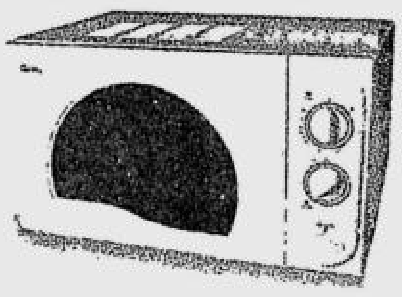
In some people's haste to save the forests and boost their media image, they may be planting exotic species that are killing endemic trees

CHRISTOPHER
Michael Drake

How to stay happy

IN THE WORDS of Helen Keller, "When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us" is a common experience for us and a challenge for many. It is at this time that we need a power boost of happiness. Learn more about opening the secrets of staying happy as Bro. Christopher Michael Drake talks about the journey to inner happiness and the "gift of happiness" within you.

Drake—author, international lawyer, businessman and peace messenger—is in the Philippines. On July 9, he will discuss "The Deep Secrets of Power, Fortune and Happiness," 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Holiday Plaza Hotel, F. Ramos Street, Cebu City. The lecture is open to the public. Admission is free and on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (032) 254-5975.



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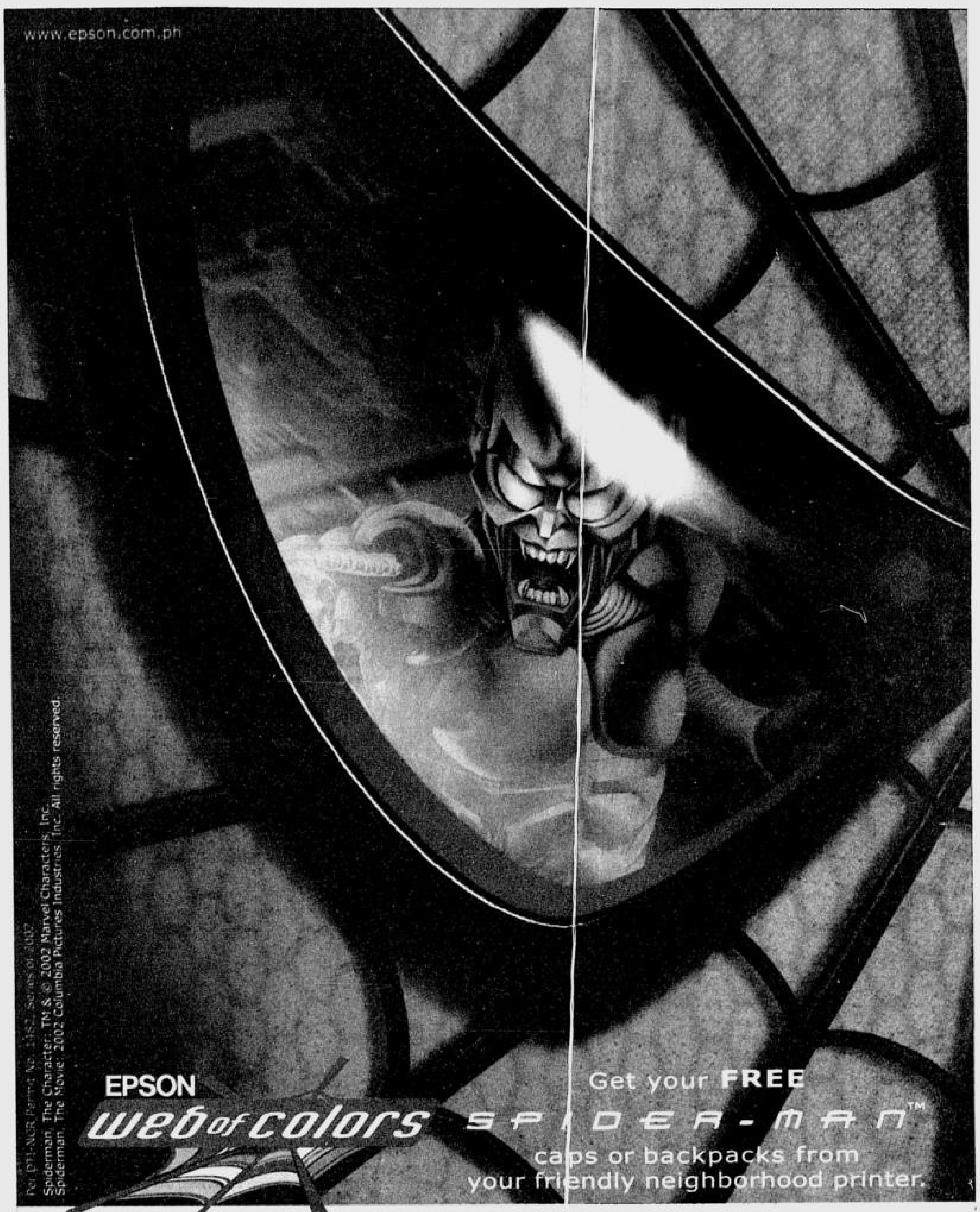

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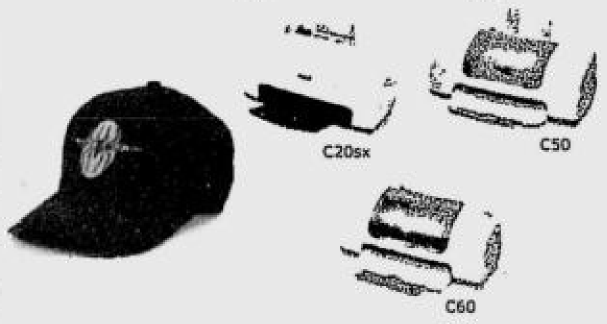

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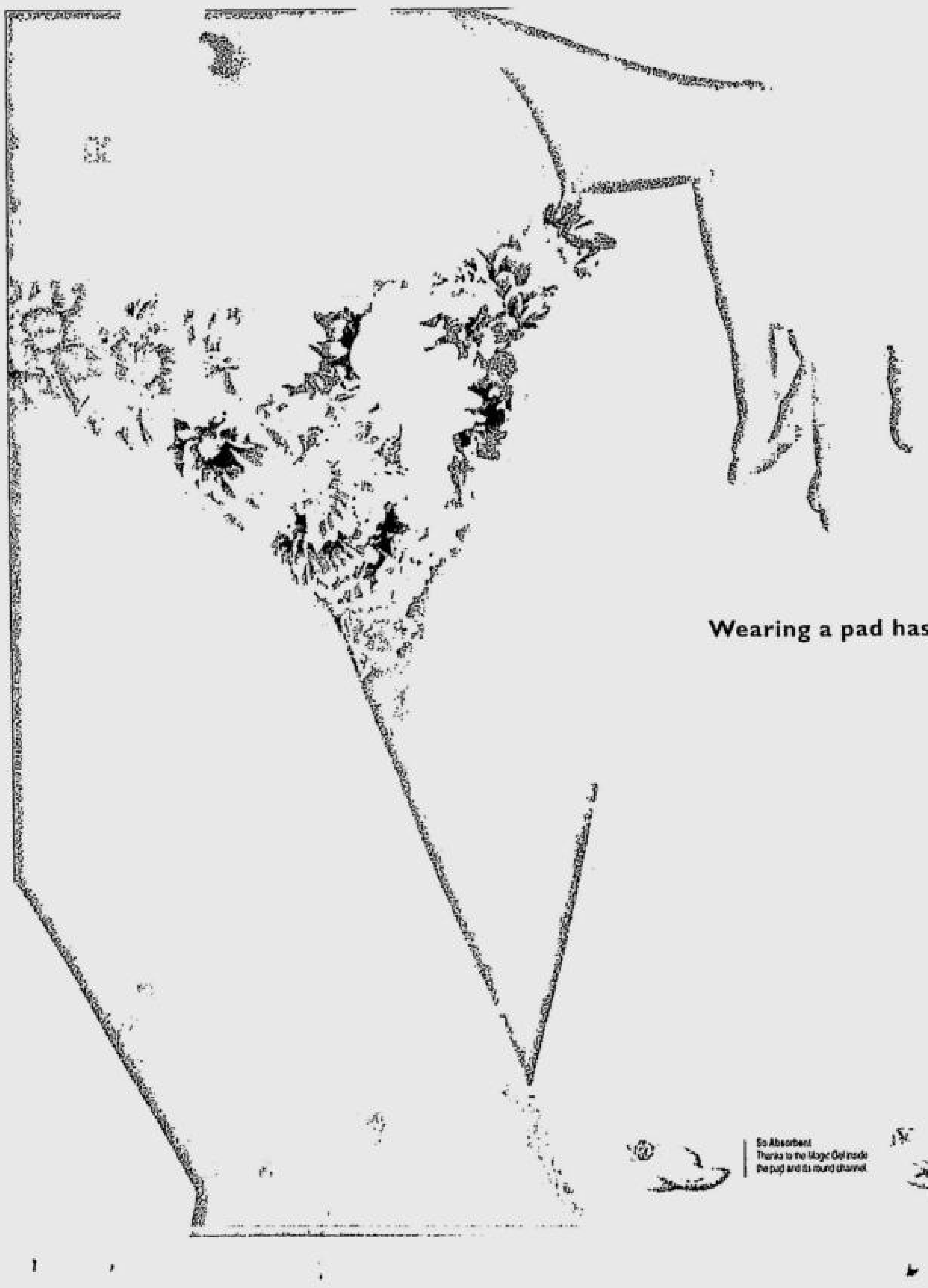

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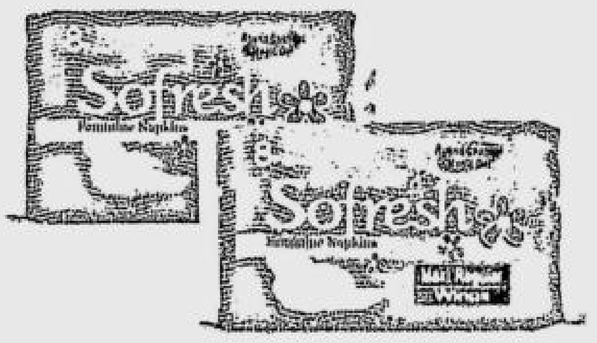

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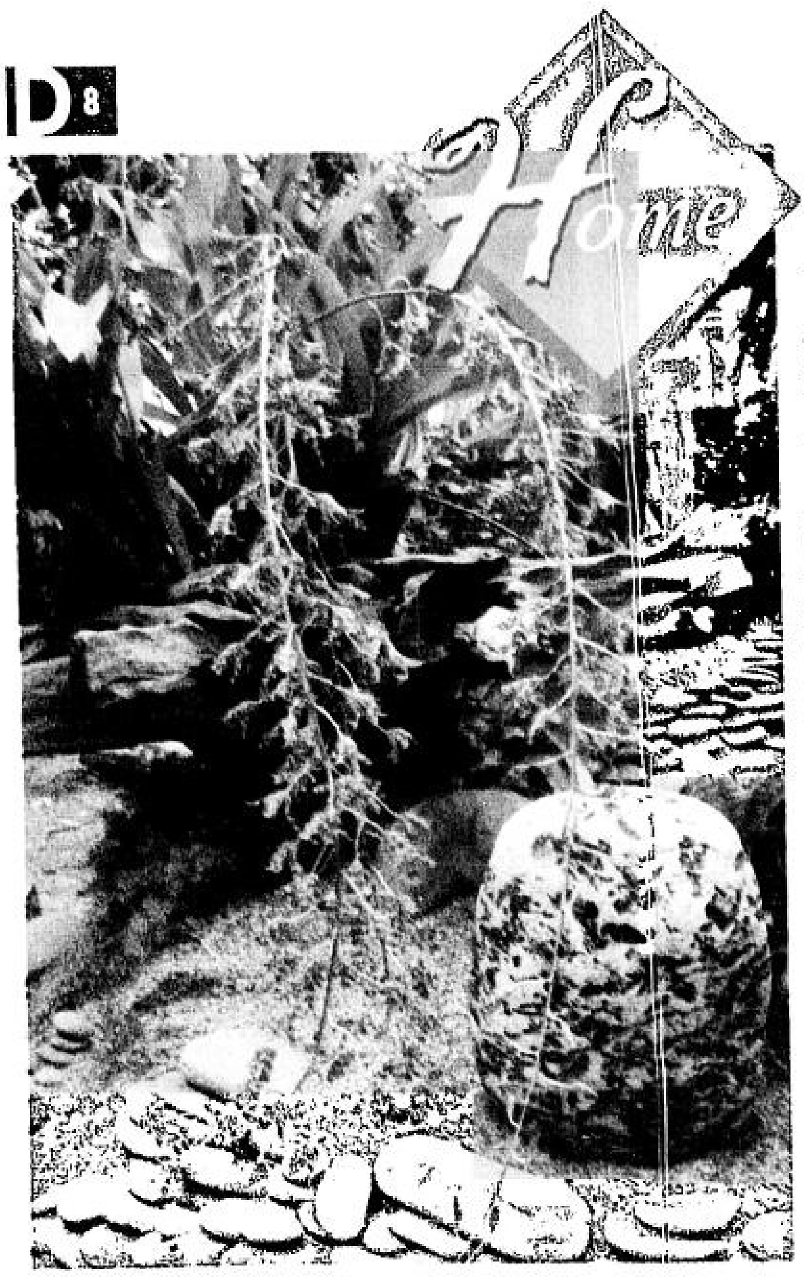
Palawan is paradise regained

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Joan Bondoc



GRAMMATOPHYLLUM orchid, weathered wood and decorative stones

PALAWAN'S gardeners may not know it, but they have what it takes to stage a garden show that will turn other plant hobbyists green with envy. Their beautiful rocks and stones alone will, as in show biz lingo, give Manila gardeners a run for their money.

Palaweños don't have to buy landscaping accessories, or go far to get what they need. Their many islands are well-endowed with all kinds of decorative stones, native plants and weathered driftwood that Manila landscapers would do anything to have.

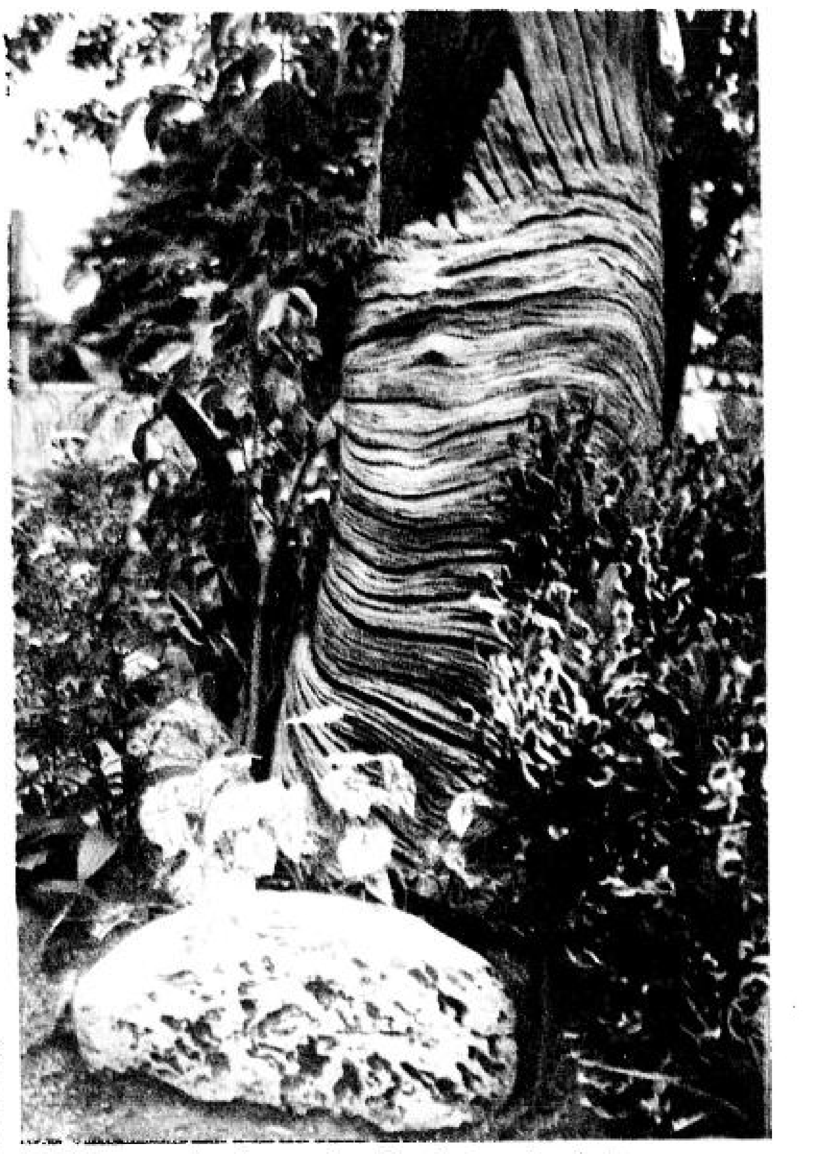
Palawan gardeners may lack landscaping savvy, but they compensate for that with native plants in their natural artistic shapes and textures—windswept dracaenas (they come in many popular names like Japanese yucca, false yucca), dwarf *baletes* of all kinds, *olivas* and *pitogo*, gingers, palms and bamboos. Butterflies, bees and birds that roamed freely in the garden show added an Eden-like ambience seldom seen in Manila shows.

We had so many impressions as we viewed their garden exhibit, one of the many events of "Baragatan 2002," a weeklong festivity that celebrated the milestone centennial anniversary of the first civic government of Palawan. The show was one of the side events of the agriculture trade fair in Puerto Princesa.

Endemic but exotic

Although the garden show was small unlike your typical show in Manila or Los Baños, the gardener fanciers of Palawan exhibited exotic plants found only in their islands. There were giant *mariposa* orchids, agaonemas, calladiums, bamboos, begonias and palms.

We were delighted to see huge clusters of Grammatophyllum orchids with their long sprays of green and brown flowers. Truly a specimen in size and beauty, the spectacular orchids would have made heads turn in any garden show in Manila. Palaweños, however, consider these orchids as ordinary plants. Traders at the agri fair decked their booths with cuttings of blooming Grammatophyllum.



RARE ironwood and natural rock art at garden show

Seeing the beautiful, decorative rocks and stones and the fantastic iron tree driftwood made our day. We saw the fantastic driftwood in the center of the exhibit of Ike Padong, a member of the Horticulture Society of Palawan. The piece was a big trunk from an old ironwood that was hard and as rare as they come. It had the character typical to ageless and weather-beaten trunks of old trees. We're proud of the ironwood photo taken by PDI photojournalist Joan Bondoc for our story. Ironwood is one of the toughest wood trees in the world, and is now considered by conservationists an endangered species.

Indigenous, innovative handicraft

The trade fair on Fernandez Street was a showcase of the folks' unique craftsmanship—a combination of their rich cultural heritage and bounty from the forest, sea and agriculture. On sale at the fair were homespun items from 23 municipalities of the province—a delightful hodgepodge of fruits and vegetables, garden plants, ethnic house decors, beads, mats, processed food, musical instruments and many more. Obviously popular among buyers were hand-woven natural fabrics made from native wild plants *amumuting* (a wild grass with flowers that are dried and used for flower arrangement), *inagawan* (a weed), *buri* palm, *florica* (water plant), *tikog*, *vetiver* (morass weed) *pandan*.

One rare item that photog Bondoc grabbed was a rare pouch made from hemp or the fiber of wild cannabis. We opted for dream catchers with glass beads and bird feather, snake scare, ipilwood bowls, and the unique rain stick, a bamboo pole that was supposedly used by folks to induce rain during droughts. The rain stick was a good buy. Filled with grains, created a mesmerizing sound that resembled ocean waves.

Mardi gras

Our Palawan sortie would not be complete without mention of the street dancing competition, the culminating event of "Baragatan 2002." Prizes at stake were P300,000 for the top winner, P200,000 second prize and P100,000 third prize. Not bad for some of the participants who braved the high seas and sailed for many hours to come to Puerto Princesa from their far-flung islands.

RAIN stick and bamboo products made by Aries Banua

"Baragatan," as explained by Palawan Gov. Joel T. Reyes is a word from the native Cuyonen that meant "convergence, a rendezvous of Palawan's ethnic people and migrant cultural groups from other provinces." They came full force to the "Baragatan" in Puerto Princesa to help bring back Palawan tourism to its former glory—among them, Tagbanuas, Palaw'ans, Tau't Batos, Ken-uys, Bataks, Cuyons, Agutaynon, Cagayanen and Muslim Molbog.

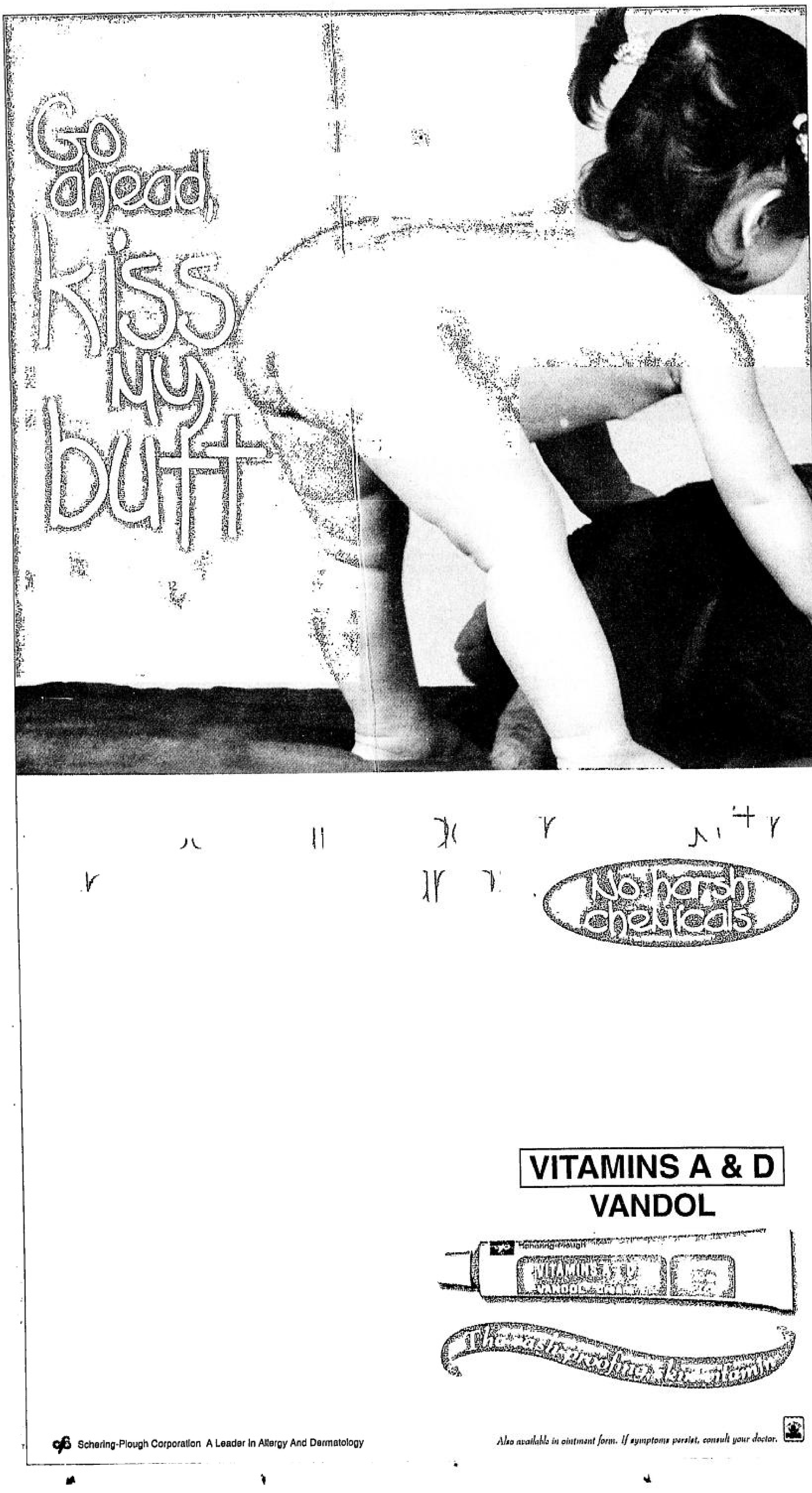
Disastrous chain of events erased Palawan for a while from the tourism map. Gov. Reyes told us, "It's time to put to rest memories of the infamous kidnapping, the twin helicopter crashes, Rico Yan's death." The mother of Governor Reyes was among the casualties of a helicopter crash.

If the successful "Baragatan" was any indication, Palawan is back on its feet, and with a vengeance at that. No doubt about it, the next "Baragatan" will be an eagerly awaited event.

E-mail author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

BOTANICAL beads from seeds of weeds and bowls carved from *ipil* wood

FLORENCIA Tumalac shows how to use handloom; thread from grasses and weeds of Palawan.



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LIFESTYLE Trend Spotting

Orientalia à la Mia

URQUICO loves what she's doing.

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

MIA Urquico's love affair with clothes began over a decade ago when she started selling clothes off the trunk of her car as a college junior at the Assumption College in San Lorenzo Village, Makati.

"My older brother Jojo had a shop back then at Virra Mall and I would design clothes in my spare time and wear those clothes to school," Mia says. "My classmates somehow liked my fashion sense and began to place orders. What I would do is get swatches from the stores in Kamuning and make my classmates pick out the fabric."

Her clients back then were her classmates who were Pitoy Moreno models—Claudia

ORIENTALIA/ p.E2

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HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Pine Forest Entrance)
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
PAMPANGA AMBULATORY CLINIC, Gapan Olongapo Rd., Front of Carworld, San Fernando Pampanga
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Josie Maran

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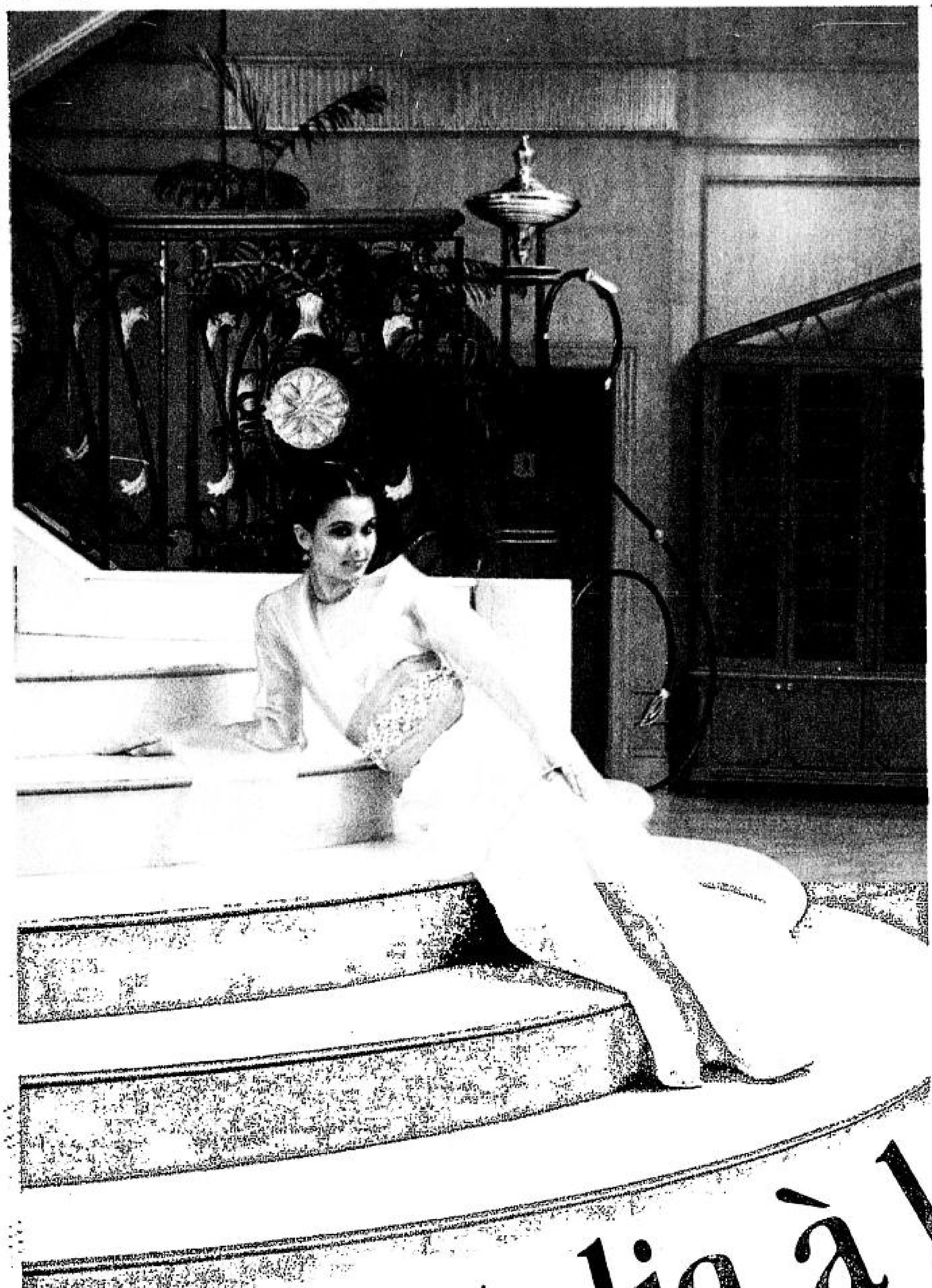
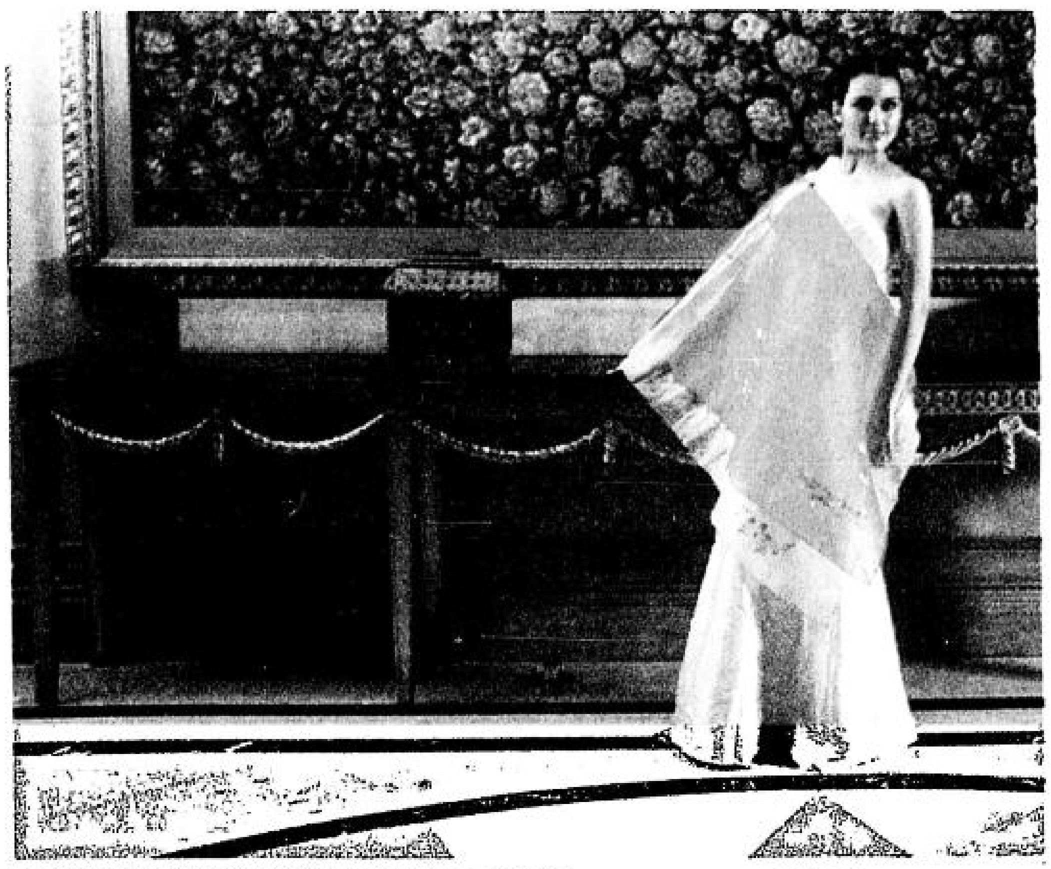


HAN-BOK-INSPIRED champagne kimono with bronze obi sash encrusted with turquoise Swarovski beads and crystals



FLORAL SPLENDOR. Tibetan-inspired organza robe in orange and kiwi with tiny floral embroidery over a champagne tube floor-length gown.

MODEL:
MICHELLE SHULTE
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
PEDY ACEBO. TEL. (0917) 902-5843
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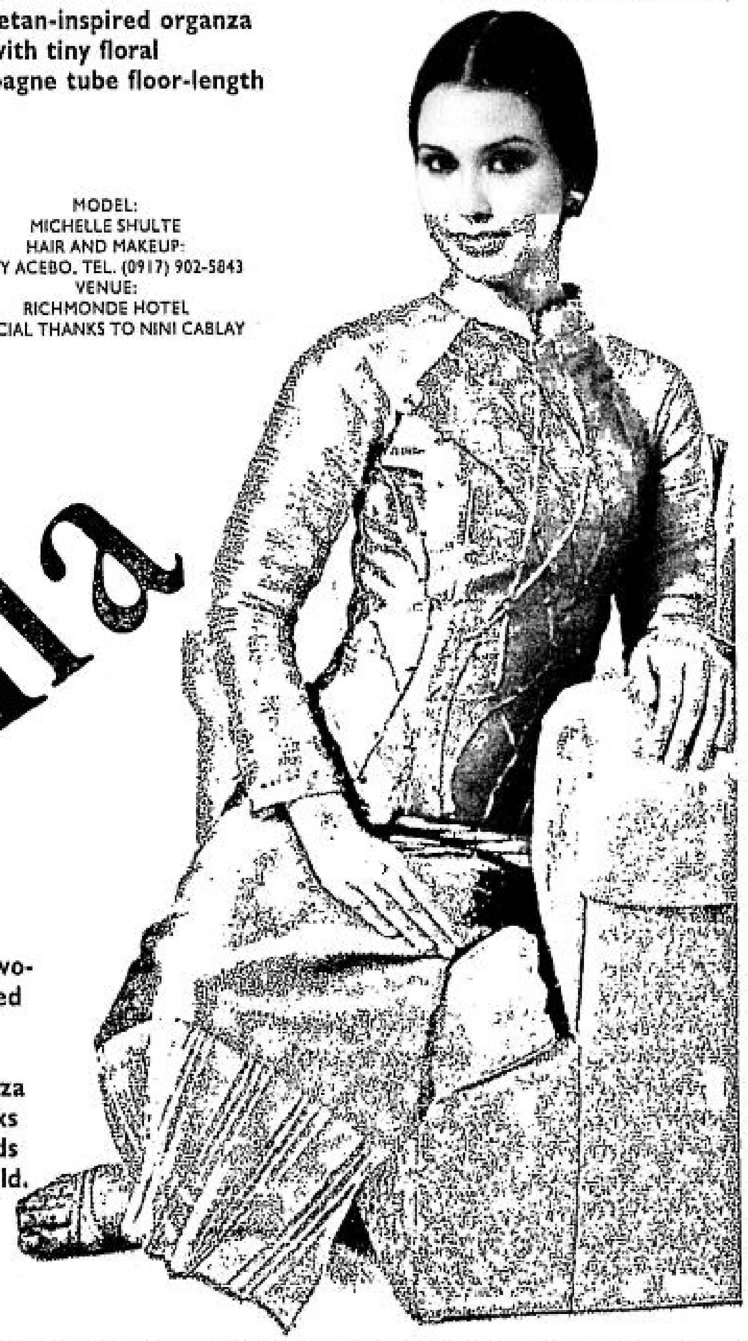


SAIGON STYLE. Two-toned ao dai-inspired blouse in yam and cinnamon Viet silk. Metallic gold organza sleeves has pin tucks and Swarovski beads in burgundy and gold.

Orientalia à la Mia

From page E1

Luz, Cathy Santamaria and Patricia Borromeo, to name a few. "The nuns in school were kind enough to let me sell clothes on campus. They knew that I was putting myself through school," she says. Blessed with an innate fashion sense, Urquico says that her entrepreneurial streak and *lakas ng loob* have seen her through a decade in the fashion business.

No-nonsense style

She opened her first shop, aptly called Mico—an acronym for what else but Mia Urquico—at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall in 1991. The clothes that hang in her shop are for the no-nonsense woman who likes to look good and prefers clothes with classic lines cut from high-quality fabrics in vibrant or earth colors. Majority of the women who come to her shops—at the Shangri-la Mall or at Festival Mall—belong to the thirty- to fiftysomething age bracket. They are lawyers, doctors, corporate women or wives of bankers and businessmen. Urquico also gets a number of brides and debutantes who are her clients' children.

"One of the best parts of my job is that many of my clients have become good friends," Mia beams. "They have been with me since I started—debutante *pa sila noon*, then I ended up making their office clothes and formal wear, and then before you know it, bridal trousseau *na*."

Urquico is warm and approachable; she speaks in a gentle voice. Petite and pretty enough to model her own clothes, she clearly enjoys what she does and gives every client who comes to her shop her personal touch. "I have clients who come from all over and it's really nice when I look back and realize how the business has grown through word of mouth."

One of her esteemed clients is the country's No. 1 no-nonsense dresser—GMA herself. Yes, Urquico has done some of the President's jackets, which the latter uses for her day-to-day meetings and some of her state visits.

Learning trips

The last two years have seen Urquico traveling a great deal in Asia and this exposure has heavily influenced her designs. "Travel for me is an investment on ideas," she explains. Initially, the trips were a therapy for Urquico, who was going through difficulties in her personal life. As a bonus, she found her creative juices flowing as a result of travel.

"I found inspiration from the colors of the country I've visited, from their culture, from the artifacts that were indigenous to them," she says. Urquico has been to Thailand, Japan and Vietnam and looks forward to exploring China and India soon. Little wonder that Urquico's signature designs have an Asian touch.

The use of silk from Thailand, Vietnam and China, obi belts, Han-bok style gowns, a lot of brightly embroidered scarves and shawls, intricate beading with Swarovski beads and crystals are hallmarks of Urquico's clothes.

"You always have to have something new. I'm in the adulation business," she says. "It always warms the heart when I hear my clients say that someone said they looked great wearing something I had created."

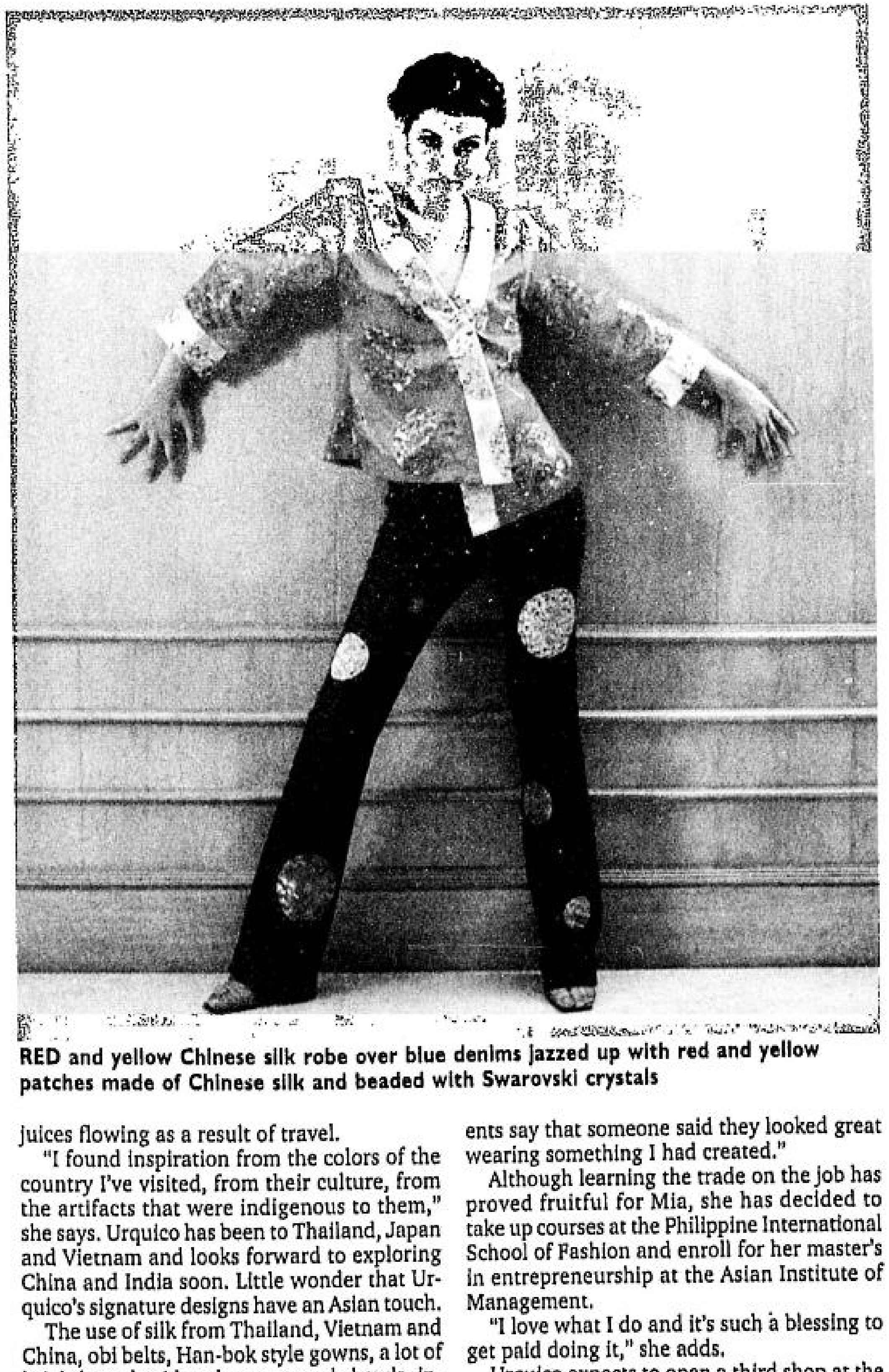
Although learning the trade on the job has proved fruitful for Mia, she has decided to take up courses at the Philippine International School of Fashion and enroll for her master's in entrepreneurship at the Asian Institute of Management.

"I love what I do and it's such a blessing to get paid doing it," she adds.

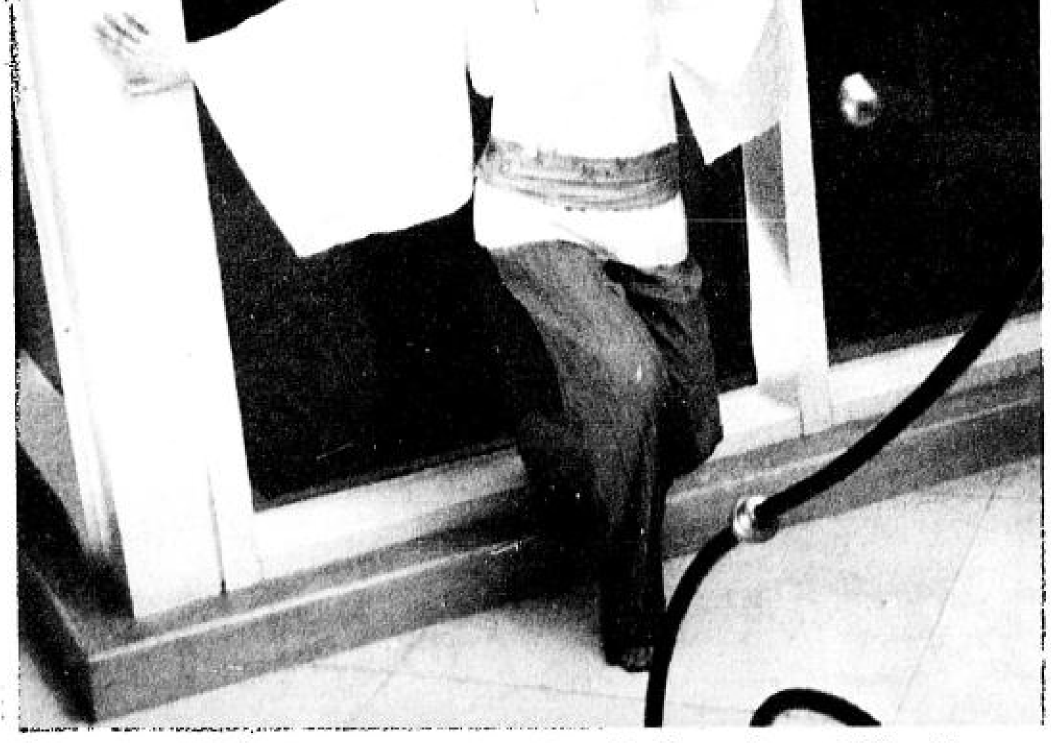
Urquico expects to open a third shop at the Eastwood Fashion Square in the Eastwood City complex later this year.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Urquico's first clients were classmates Patricia Borromeo, Cathy Santamaria and Claudia Luz; today she makes business jackets for the President



RED and yellow Chinese silk robe over blue denims jazzed up with red and yellow patches made of Chinese silk and beaded with Swarovski crystals



OFF-WHITE laced-up deconstructed pirate shirt with kimono sleeves in Viet silk accentuated with obi sash over turquoise pleated georgette pants

Rules of the fashion game

By September Mahino
Contributor

Freed from school uniforms at last, a coed learns the delicate rules of dressing

I FIRST discovered the wonders of thongs in freshman year in college. In high school, garbed in my long-sleeved blouse, heavy blue jumper and white granny underpants, I became conscious of my butt only when I had a pesky wedgie.

Upon graduating and leaving behind the security of school uniforms, all those impractical fashion oddities that I had previously only seen in magazines suddenly became tangible and necessary items: strapless bras that constantly threaten to expose your glory, ankle socks that can be unflattering to already-elephantine ankles and, yes, the thong, the ultimate source of an all-day wedgie that is irremovable, unavoidable and uncomfortable.

They all have become staples in my wardrobe as I started buying my first spaghetti strap top, my first pair of capri pants, and my first pair of beige linen trousers.

To strap or not to strap

In my new uniform-free world, I've found out that there are unwritten rules that make certain wardrobe pieces staples. One of them is that, unless you've got enough guts, you should never let your bra straps peek from underneath your top. The way to work around that is, naturally, to wear strapless bras. However, this is not advisable for girls who have big breasts. Come to think of it, it is also not advisable to those who have small breasts because, unless the bras are specifically engineered to hold on to your torso like a barnacle, they tend to slip down. Impractical and prone to causing embarrassment, the strapless bras were soon overshadowed by designer straps that are narrow and thin or even transparent so as not to be easily detected by the naked eye, but providing the support of regular straps.

Another rule is to never wear socks that go higher than your ankles when you're in shorts and rubber shoes. To think that in grade school and high school, I laughed at girls whose socks sagged down to their ankles and got "eaten" by their shoes! Like the strapless bras, the point of wearing ankle socks is to prevent your feet from getting sweaty and smelly inside your sneakers, without letting the rest of the world know. It took me some time to adapt to ankle socks, but after someone viciously called me "tennis player" during PE, I wised up and followed the rest of the crowd.

Now you see it, now you don't

And then there is the "NPL" rule. No Panty Lines. Allowing the seams of your undies to become visible is the worst offense of all. You are sure to get disgusted looks and whispers of "*bakti*" (*bakat-panti*) from boys and girls on campus.

The only way to avoid the embarrassment is to wear thong undies (or go commando, meaning ditch the underwear, which is the worse fate of the two). Never mind if, in wearing thongs, you experience the nastiest wedgie you've ever had in your life and it bugs you the whole day with no relief. Never mind if it cuts up to your crotch and may cause yeast infection. You want to conform to the NPL rule, you take any torture that thongs inflict.

Besides, thongs are delightfully naughty. It's a lot of fun to shock the conservative when browsing through the selection of sexy and flimsy underpants in the lingerie department. Thongs can also boost self-esteem; they can transform any plain Jane into a naughty girl with a little secret. In weighing the pros and cons, the sexy feeling can beat comfort any day, except when you're having your period or you expect to do strenuous work sometime and the last thing you care about is to look and feel foxy.

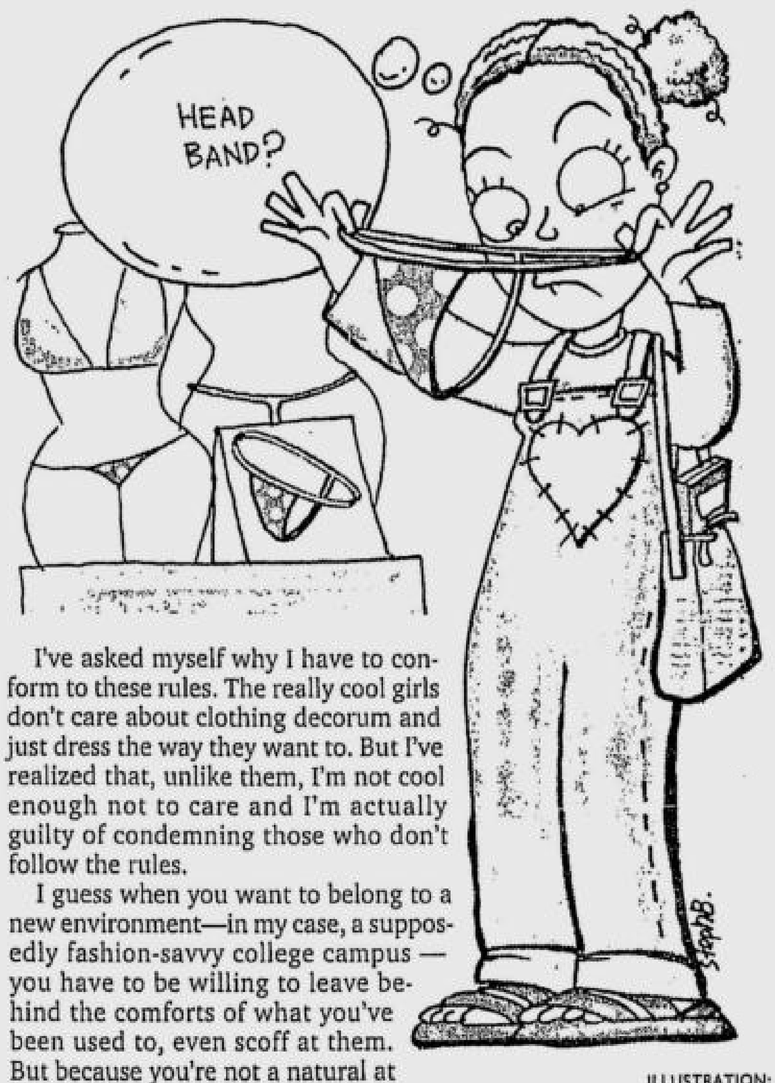


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

I've asked myself why I have to conform to these rules. The really cool girls don't care about clothing decorum and just dress the way they want to. But I've realized that, unlike them, I'm not cool enough not to care and I'm actually guilty of condemning those who don't follow the rules.

I guess when you want to belong to a new environment—in my case, a supposedly fashion-savvy college campus — you have to be willing to leave behind the comforts of what you've been used to, even scoff at them. But because you're not a natural at these fashion games, there are moments when you ask yourself why and feel a tad stupid.

Tell Mom how much you love her before it's too late

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My mother, Felicitas P. Albino, died on May 3. If you can print this tribute to my Mama, I will be very grateful. Many young people today take their mothers for granted. Hug your Mom and tell her how much you love her before it is too late.

For Mama

You brought me to the world and rocked my crib when I was small.

You stayed awake all night when I was sick and wet.

You taught me what is right and wrong, how to behave as I live and grow.

You cooked my meals day after day and made me happy in every way. You cried with me when I was in trouble. You always came to my rescue when I stumbled. You still loved me even when I did wrong, and loved me more as days went on.

You embraced me to make me forget my pain, soothed me when I was hurt and helped me to stand again. To you, Mother dear, my source of love and cheer—I owe my life and all, for you are next to God, in my heart and in my soul.

RUDY ALBINO
Antipolo City

It is good you expressed your love for your Mama. This will remind readers to express loving care for their mothers.

My postscript is that all should also love and respect their fathers.

* * *

I enjoyed your column on the "Unloving Wife," but not because I shared the husband's lament. I have a perfect wife.

What surprised me about that husband was why he had put up with his wife's behavior, and apparently still intends to do so to the bloody end.

In the US, I can assure you, men and women do not put up with shabby treatment from their mates, at least not for long. Too many options there, not like here. Love and sacrifice is not a strong suit in America. But instant gratification is.

Having an affair is a common solution on both sides of the Pacific, but in the US, the marriage ends quickly. In the Philippines that's not really possible, but the physical alienation is the same.

Your *"bahala na"* at the end of the story was a nice way to "end" this husband's torment, but it would take more than that, as you also pointed out.

It would be nice if we could find "nirvana" the first time around; wolves do. They mate for life, and when one dies, the other goes on alone. But if it takes one or two go-arounds to get it right, well, I'll give up sainthood for peace on earth.

ELLIOTT ANDERSON
Pan-ay Clarin,
Misamis Occidental 7201

Some people in this country would agree with what you have said. Adult readers are free to conclude from what you have said. There is freedom of speech, and for this particular column, we just go by the privilege of freedom of the press.

What we want to remind all those who are married is their marriage vows. That unloving wife will surely face karma.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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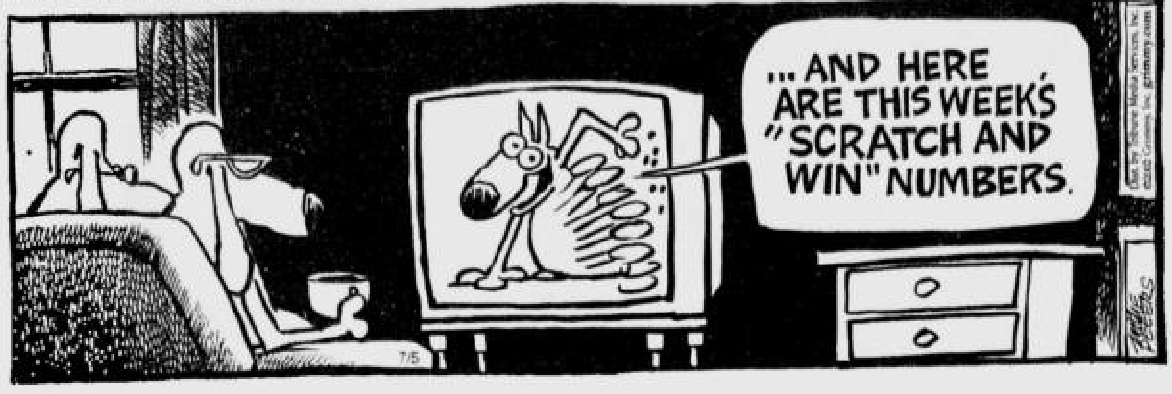
Michele Reis - Actress

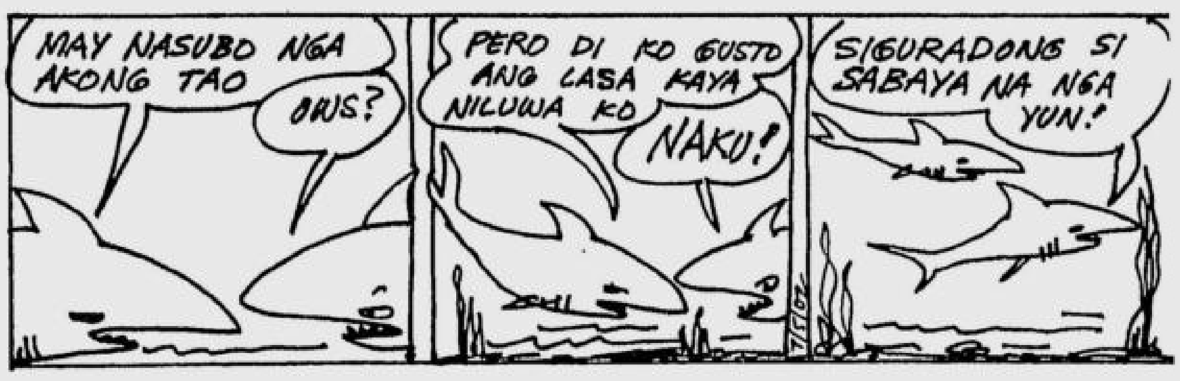
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


...AND HERE ARE THIS WEEK'S "SCRATCH AND WIN" NUMBERS.
7/5

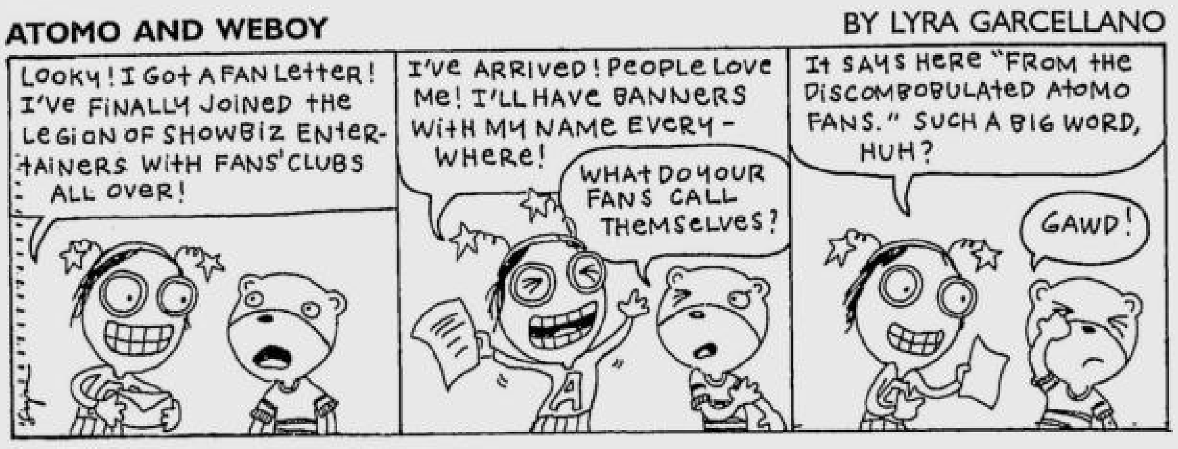
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY NASUBO NGA AKONG TAO
OWS?
PERO DI KO GUSTO ANG LASA KAYA NILUWA KO
NAKU!
SIGURADONG SI SABAYA NA NGA YUN!

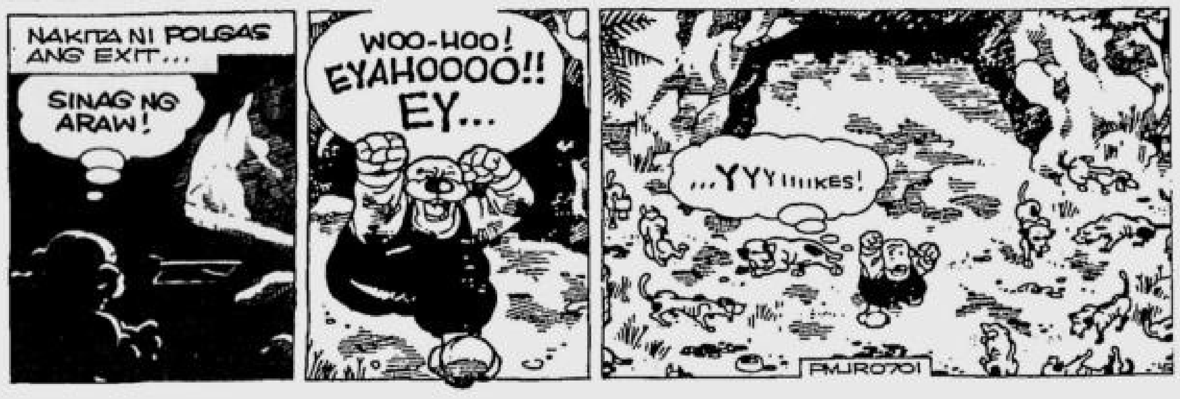
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LOOKY! I GOT A FAN LETTER! I'VE FINALLY JOINED THE LEGION OF SHOWBIZ ENTERTAINERS WITH FANS' CLUBS ALL OVER!
I'VE ARRIVED! PEOPLE LOVE ME! I'LL HAVE BANNERS WITH MY NAME EVERY-WHERE!
WHAT DO YOUR FANS CALL THEMSELVES?
IT SAYS HERE "FROM THE DISCOMBOBULATED ATOMO FANS." SUCH A BIG WORD, HUH?
GAWD!

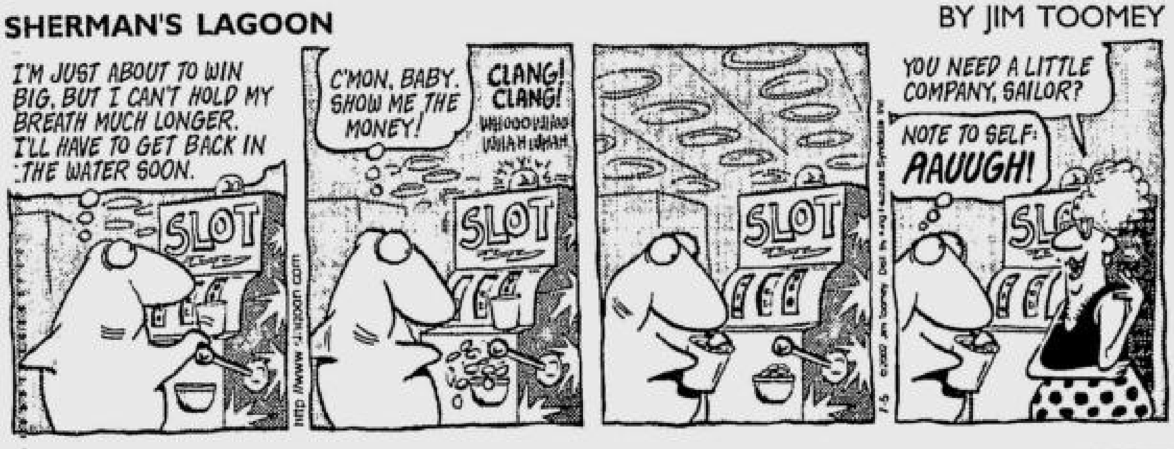
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAKITA NI POLGAS ANG EXIT...
SINAG NG ARAW!
WOO-HOO! EYAHOOOO!! EY...
...YYYIIIIKES!
PMJR0701

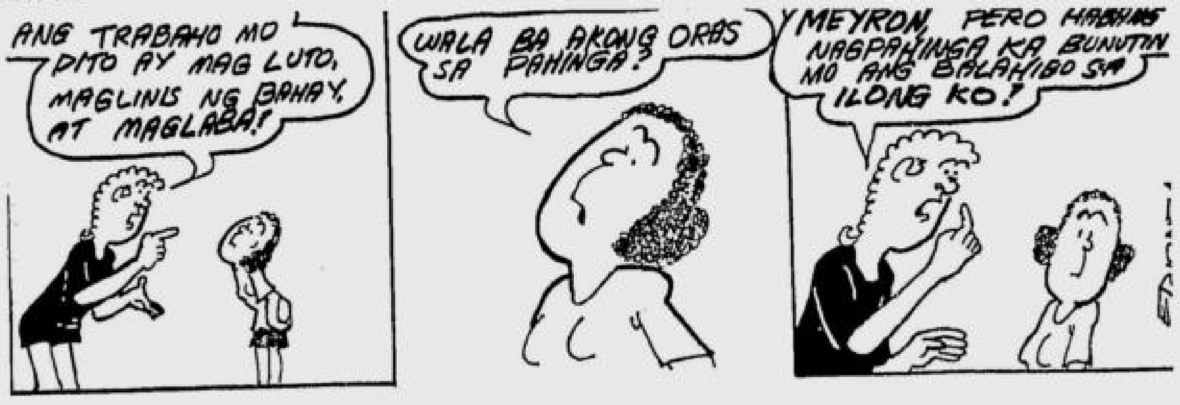
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I'M JUST ABOUT TO WIN BIG, BUT I CAN'T HOLD MY BREATH MUCH LONGER. I'LL HAVE TO GET BACK IN THE WATER SOON.
SLOT
C'MON, BABY. SHOW ME THE MONEY!
CLANG! CLANG!
WHOOOWHAA WHAH WHAH
SLOT
SLOT
YOU NEED A LITTLE COMPANY, SAILOR?
NOTE TO SELF: AAUUGH!

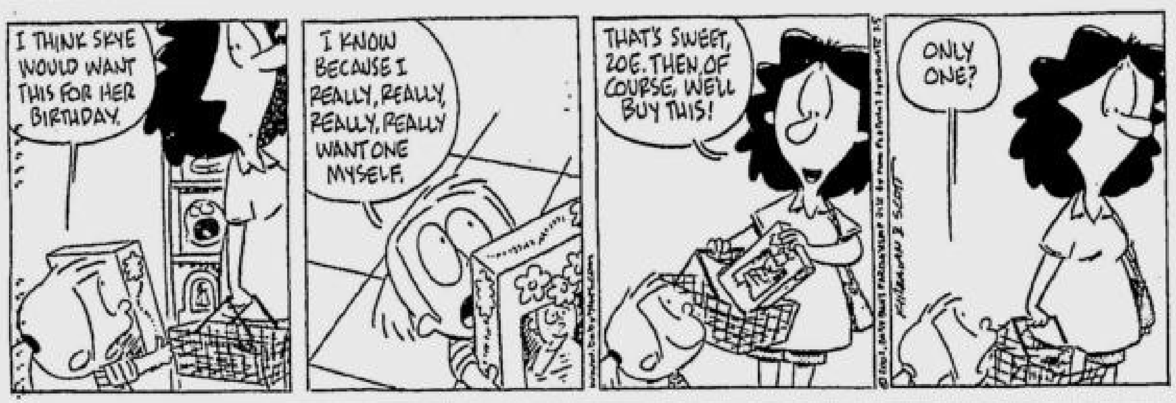
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANG TRABAHO MO DITO AY MAG LUTO, MAGLINIS NG BAHAY, AT MAGLABA!
WALA BA AKONG ORAS SA PAHINGA?
MEYRON, PERO HABANG NAGPAPAHINGA KA BUNUTIN MO ANG BALAHIBO SA ILONG KO!

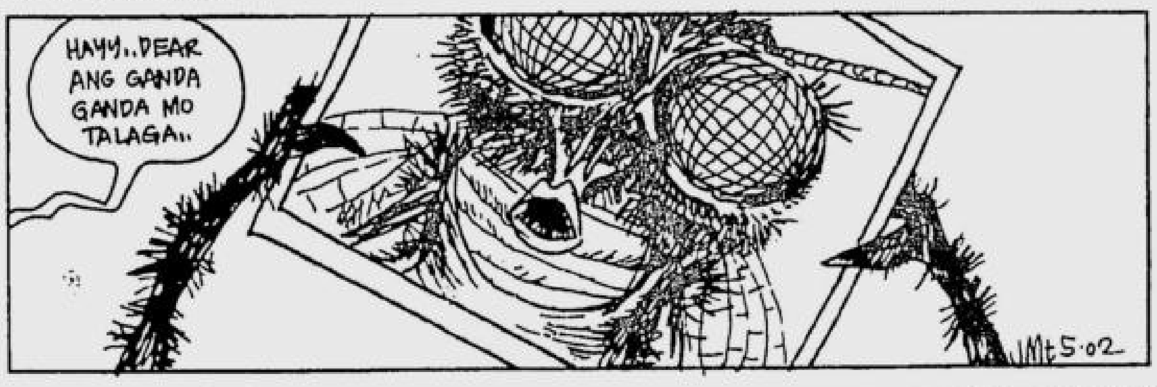
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I THINK SKYE WOULD WANT THIS FOR HER BIRTHDAY.
I KNOW BECAUSE I REALLY, REALLY, REALLY, REALLY WANT ONE MYSELF.
THAT'S SWEET, ZOE. THEN, OF COURSE, WE'LL BUY THIS!
ONLY ONE?

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAYY.. DEAR ANG GANDA GANDA MO TALAGA..
Mt 5·02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Huey Lewis, Marc Cohn, P.T. Barnum, Katherine Helmond

Happy Birthday: Make changes in your home and search for intellectually stimulating activities. Your interaction with friends and relatives will be favorable. You may pick the wrong people to invest or socialize with if you try too hard to please too many. Expect your creative abilities to surface. Your numbers are 16, 28, 31, 36, 43, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If you aren't pleased with the way things are going you may want to make a few adjustments. It's never too late to change your mind. The only crime is wishing without doing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be sensitive and passionate today. Stay in control and be careful not to let anyone take advantage of your vulnerable state. Do not make rash decisions based on emotions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone may lead you astray if you rely on them for information. If you must deal with large institutions be sure you understand what you are being told. Ask for information in writing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have fun if you join a group that is equipped to fight a cause you believe in. Your diplomatic approach will enable you to gain respect, admiration and confidence.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you aren't getting along with someone at work, remain composed and let them make mistakes. Your mature way of handling the situation will put you in a superior position.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The time to take action is now. You are always thinking about what you should do for yourself but you always put it off. You deserve a break and if you don't give yourself one, no one else will.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you haven't been watching your money situation you may be in for a surprise. You have probably been doing better than you thought but it's also likely that you've been overspending. It's time to sort through your papers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have trouble getting someone you like off your mind. Relationships will be important to you today so do something to please that special person in your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you haven't completed your work, put in some extra hours. It will help you feel more relaxed knowing that you completed everything before kicking back for the weekend.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The focus should be on doing whatever is necessary to be the best that you can be. Get into fitness or take art or music lessons. Enhance your mind or your looks.

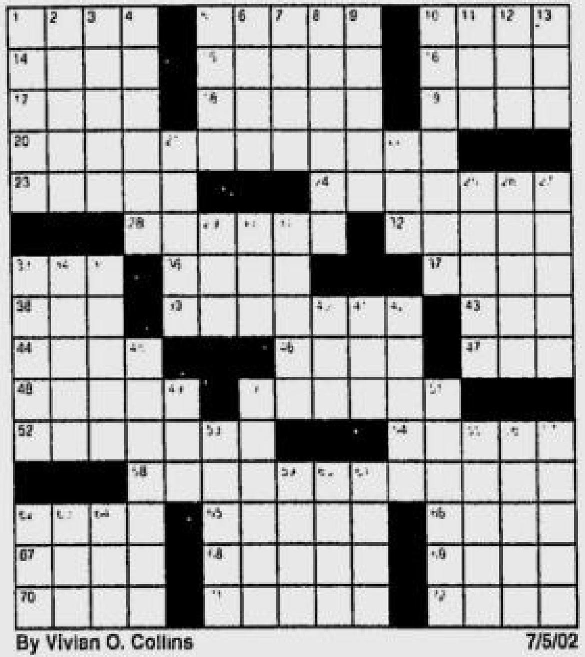
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If someone you care about becomes emotional be sympathetic and a good listener. You may not want to be bothered but in the end it will be to your advantage.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The more you interact with others the more you will learn. You need to share your experiences in order to understand them fully. You may be surprised at the reaction you get.

Birthday Baby: You were born with a happy-go-lucky attitude and will enjoy much popularity throughout your life. You will instinctively know how to please others. You have what it takes to prosper.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Vivian O. Collins
Leesburg, GA

7/5/02

ACROSS
- 1 Driver's team
- 5 Drive (out)
- 10 Courts
- 14 Scottish lake
- 15 Lawn tool
- 16 500-mi. race
- 17 Reed in the winds
- 18 Greek letter
- 19 Sign gas
- 20 Ideal starting spot
- 23 Moonshine maker
- 24 Signed up for
- 28 Usher
- 32 Wedding VIP
- 33 Printer's measures
- 36 TV host Trebek
- 37 Mix up
- 38 Carnival city
- 39 Florida racing venue
- 43 $ dispenser
- 44 Inclined roadway
- 46 Horizontal barrier
- 47 __ Na Na
- 48 Computer letters
- 50 Rug
- 52 Rhyming couplet
- 54 Kingdom
- 58 Section of track
- 62 Oaf
- 65 Viewpoint
- 66 St. __, MN
- 67 Scuttlebutt
- 68 Search thoroughly
- 69 Gumbo ingredient
- 70 Lowdown
- 71 __ to you!
- 72 Sorrowful drop

DOWN
- 1 Hoof beats on pavement
- 2 Mechanical man
- 3 Pathogenic bacteria
- 4 Steering devices
- 5 Reconstruct
- 6 Lofty poems
- 7 Citrus fruit
- 8 Hunting dog
- 9 Work at getting in shape
- 10 Checkered flag recipients
- 11 Single entity
- 12 Auberjonois character
- 13 Equivalent wd.
- 21 Assert innocence
- 22 NYC gambling center
- 25 Rudner and Moreno
- 26 Singer Piaf
- 27 Stuffed __ (kishke)
- 29 Pie __ mode
- 30 Writer Josephine
- 31 Additional
- 33 Made a mistake
- 34 Home of the Marlins
- 35 Cell bodies
- 40 Thole insert
- 41 Tuck's partner
- 42 Vigilant
- 45 Racer's break
- 49 Set afire
- 50 Opportunity
- 51 __ Dome (1921 scandal)
- 53 Collision
- 55 Conscious
- 56 Preminger classic film
- 57 Polyester film
- 59 Mr. Stravinsky
- 60 Sticky stuff
- 61 Towel word
- 62 Back talk
- 63 Lennon's love
- 64 E.T.'s transport

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	M	A	H	■	S	W	A	B	■	B	L	A	S	E
B	O	N	G	■	R	O	N	A	■	L	A	N	K	Y
B	O	O	K	M	A	R	K	S	■	A	S	T	I	R
E	N	N	U	I	■	M	A	R	K	S	T	I	M	E
■	■	■	M	X	I	■	■	A	I	T	S	■	■	■
S	D	S	■	U	R	S	A	■	T	E	T	R	A	S
T	I	M	E	P	I	E	C	E	■	D	R	U	S	E
A	D	A	M	■	S	E	R	V	E	■	A	N	T	E
B	U	L	B	S	■	P	I	E	C	E	W	O	R	K
S	P	L	A	T	S	■	D	R	U	M	■	N	O	S
■	■	■	R	A	Y	S	■	■	A	O	L	■	■	■
W	O	R	K	P	L	A	C	E	■	T	A	P	E	S
A	V	A	I	L	■	P	L	A	C	E	K	I	C	K
T	E	R	N	E	■	P	E	R	U	■	E	L	O	I
S	N	A	G	S	■	Y	A	L	E	■	R	E	N	T

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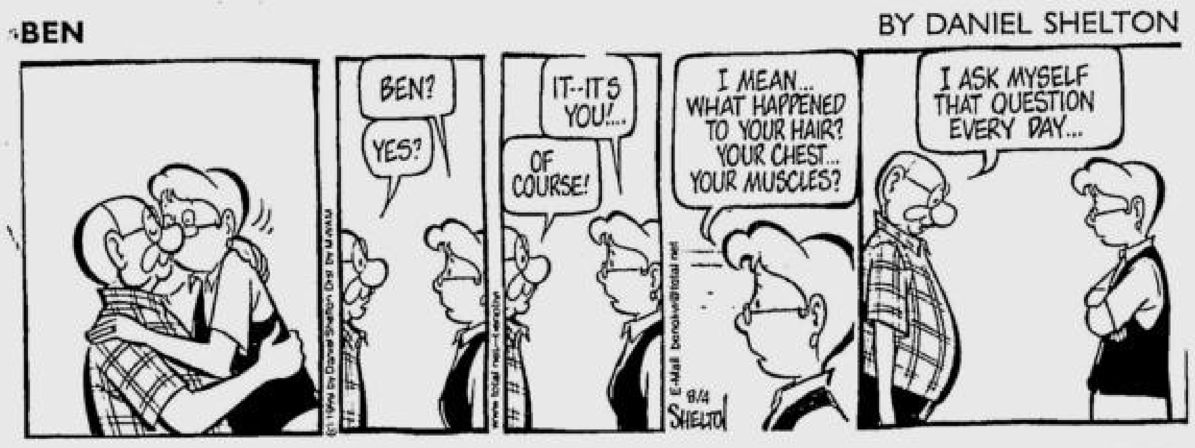
7/5/02

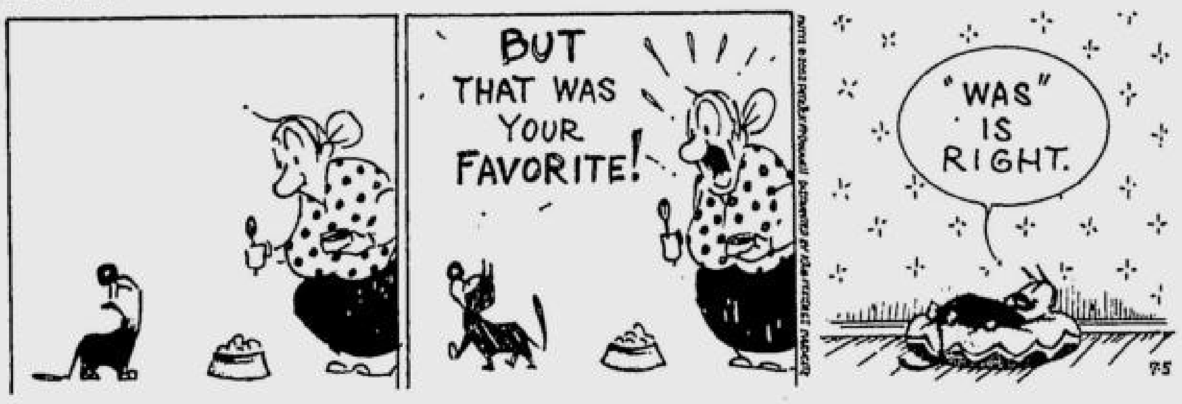
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN?
YES?
IT--IT'S YOU!...
OF COURSE!
I MEAN... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR? YOUR CHEST... YOUR MUSCLES?
I ASK MYSELF THAT QUESTION EVERY DAY...
8/4 SHELTON

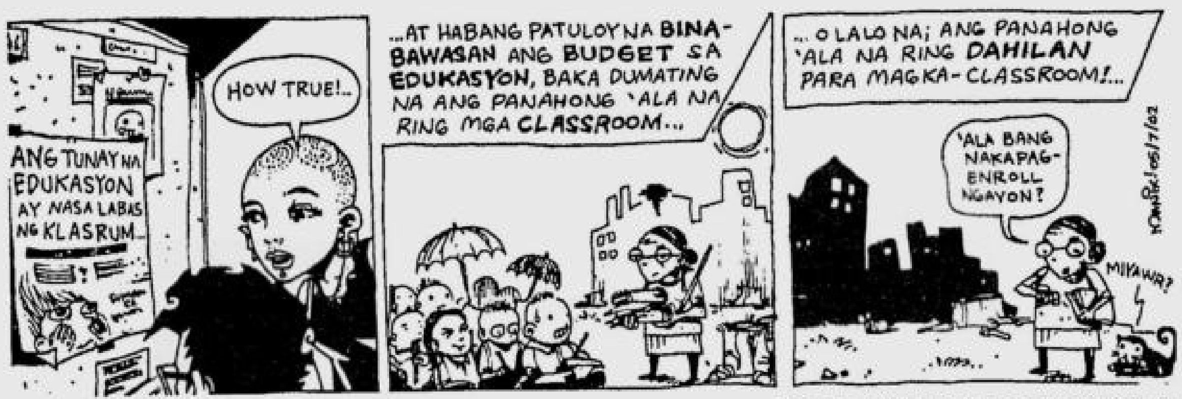
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BUT THAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE!
"WAS" IS RIGHT.
7-5

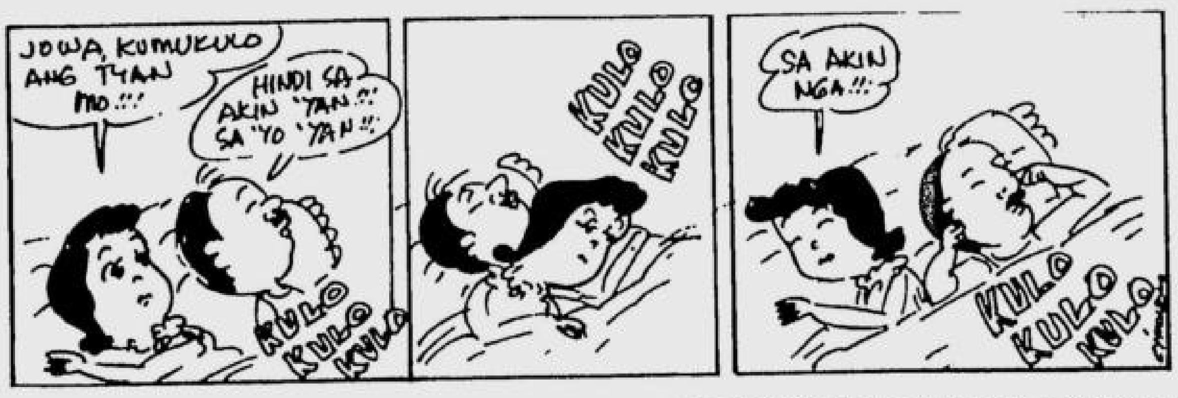
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANG TUNAY NA EDUKASYON AY NASA LABAS NG KLASRUM...
HOW TRUE!..
...AT HABANG PATULOY NA BINABAWASAN ANG BUDGET SA EDUKASYON, BAKA DUMATING NA ANG PANAHONG 'ALA NA RING MGA CLASSROOM...
... O LALO NA; ANG PANAHONG 'ALA NA RING DAHILAN PARA MAGKA-CLASSROOM!...
'ALA BANG NAKAPAG-ENROLL NGAYON?
MIYAWR?

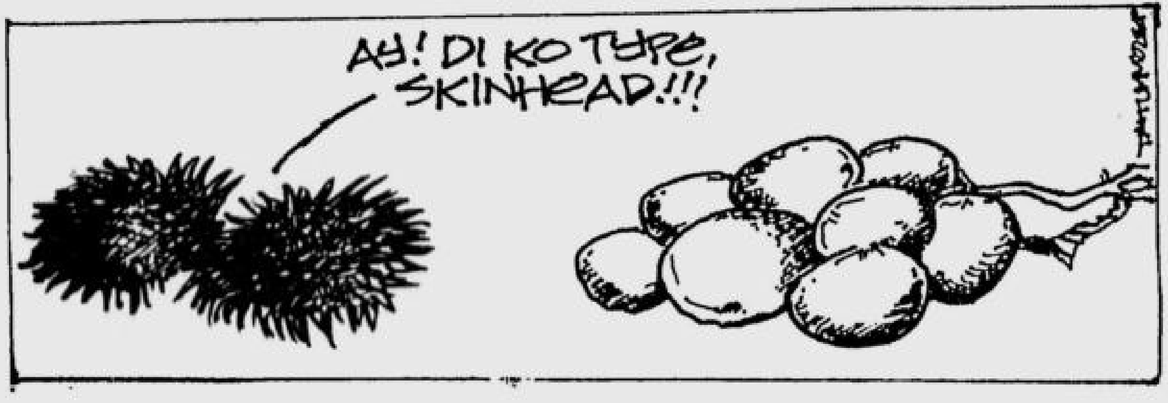
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

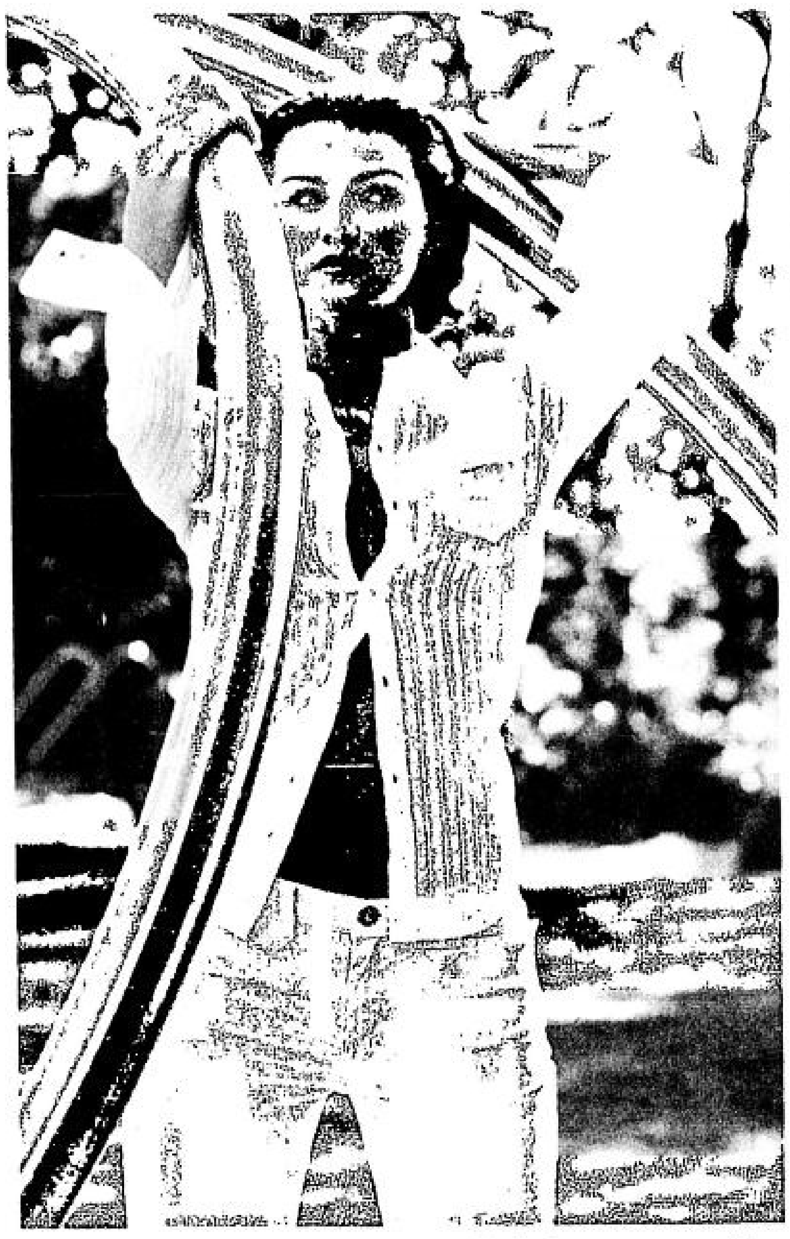

JOWA, KUMUKULO ANG TYAN MO!!!
HINDI SA AKIN 'YAN!! SA 'YO 'YAN!!
KULO KULO KULO
KULO KULO KULO
SA AKIN NGA!!!
KULO KULO KULO

TULDOK

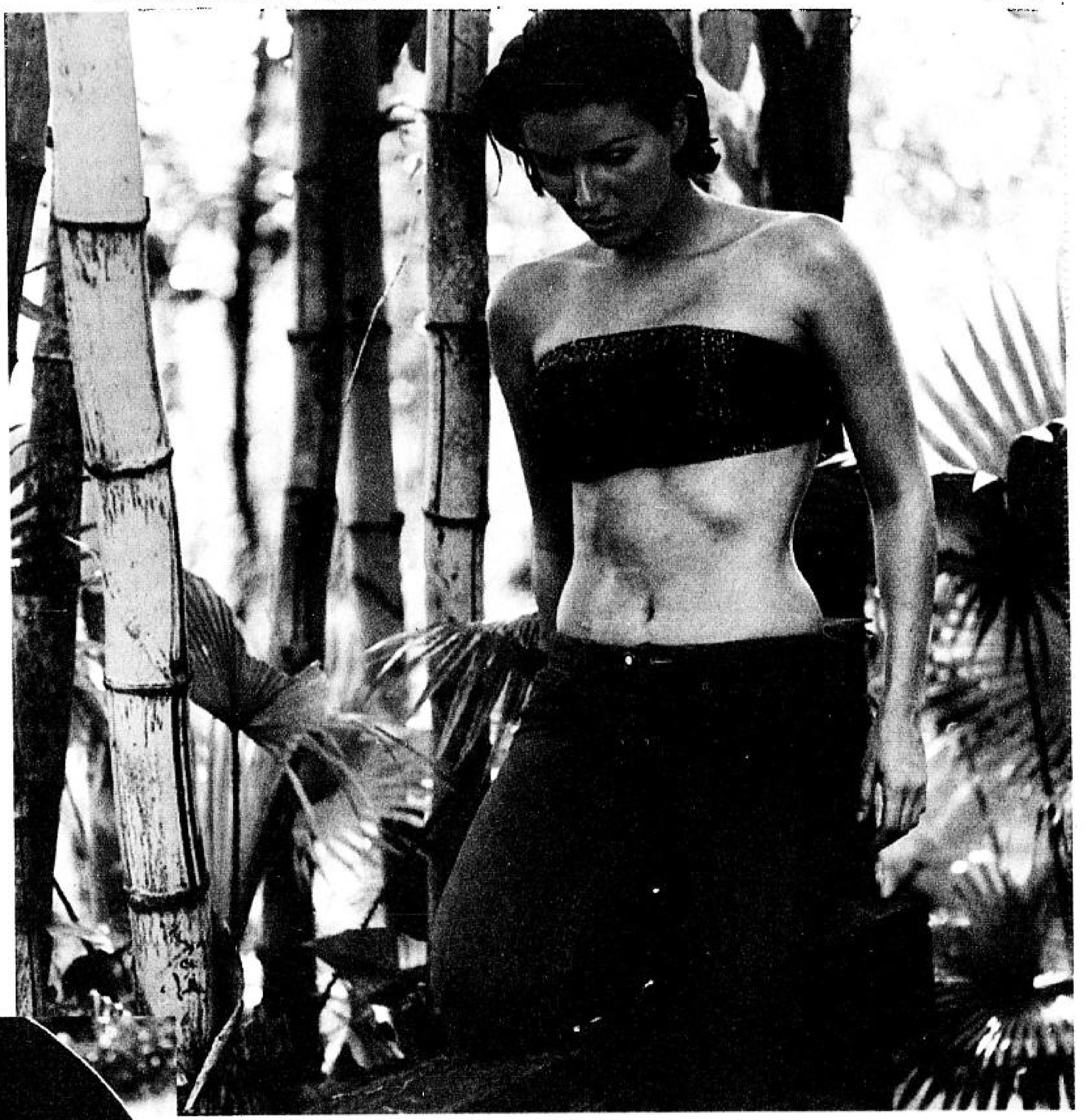
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AY! DI KO TYPE, SKINHEAD!!!

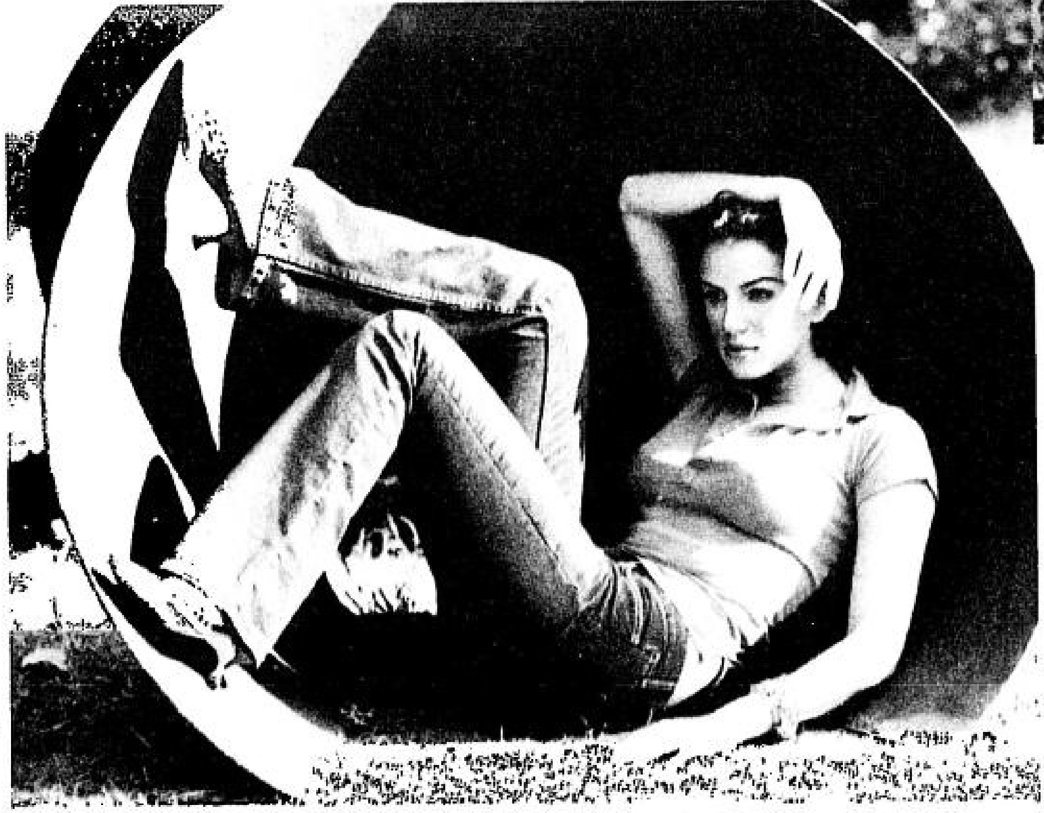
MODEL: LANA ASANIN
PHOTOS BY JUN DE LEON



WHITE on white. Cool flimsy cotton shirt looks great over white Earl jeans.



TRADEMARK Earl—dark denim, with a low waist and boot-cut leg



LOW-SLUNG, slim-fitting Earl Jeans are a hit among Hollywood celebrities.

Charm of blues

IF there is any piece of clothing con-sidered by today's bright young things as their uniform, it is a pair of denim jeans. But it can't be just any other brand of blues. From Calista Flockhart to Cameron Diaz, supermodels Gisele Bundchen and Kate Moss to Liv Tyler, the tag on their hips is Earl Jeans.

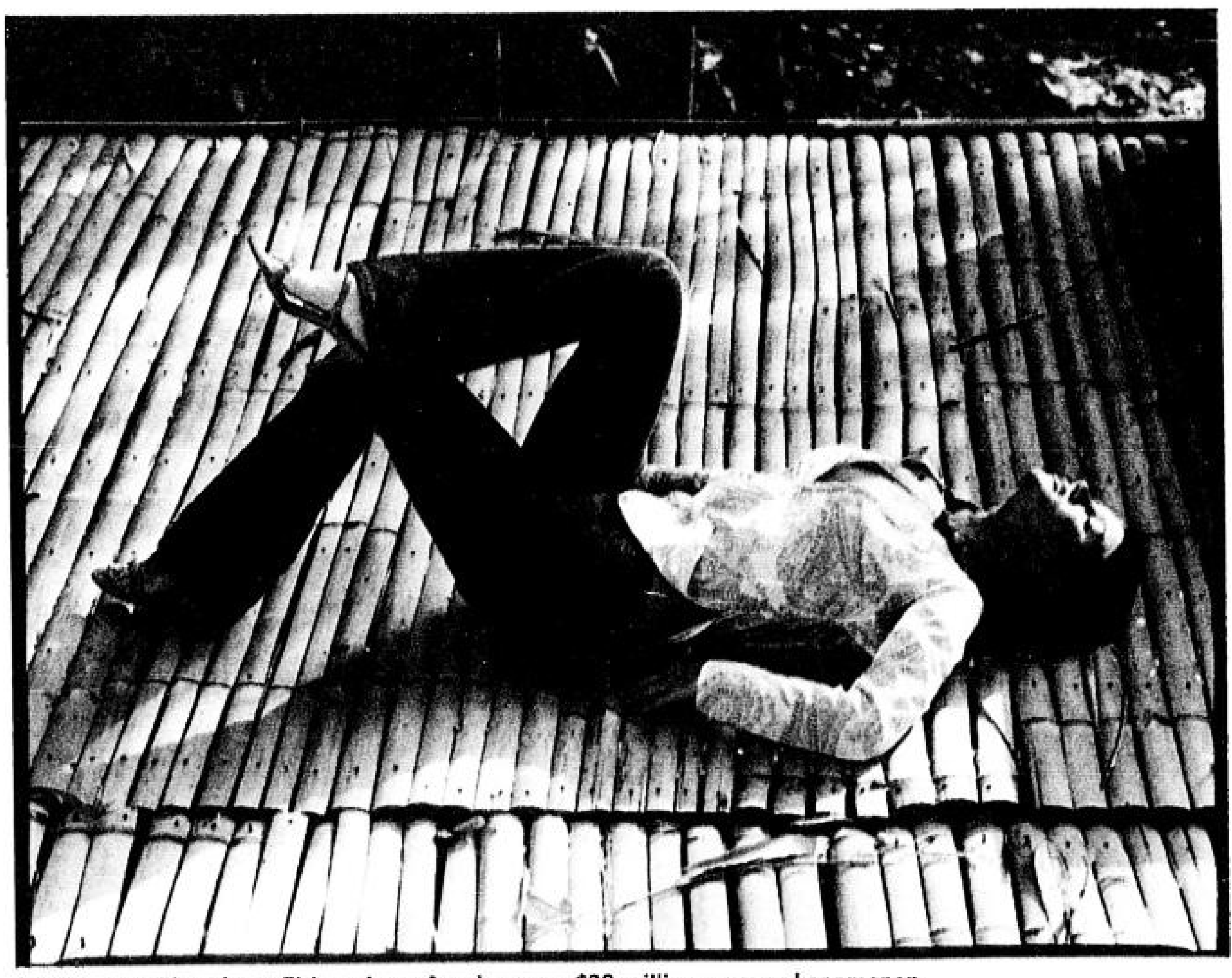
To think that Earl Jeans, perhaps the most avidly snagged pairs of denim jeans among the Hollywood and New York It-girl set, is just a little more than half-a-decade old in the business. It has been showing up at premieres and high-power parties worn by the likes of Michelle Pfeiffer and Courtney Cox. Its trademark trousers—dark denim, with a low waist and boot-cut leg—are a $28-million-a-year phenomenon, according to Harper's Bazaar.

The brainchild of former television and film stylist Suzanne Costas Freiwald, Earl Jeans was created in 1996 out of pure necessity. The Los Angeles-based Costas, who for years had been tailoring her own vintage denims, found herself in a bind when her favorite jeans were stolen from the local laundromat. It was then that her husband encouraged her to design the low slung, slim-fitting jeans she had always loved. The result: Earl Jeans' style #55, which created an immediate sensation among her friends. The buzz soon began to leak to people in the fashion industry.

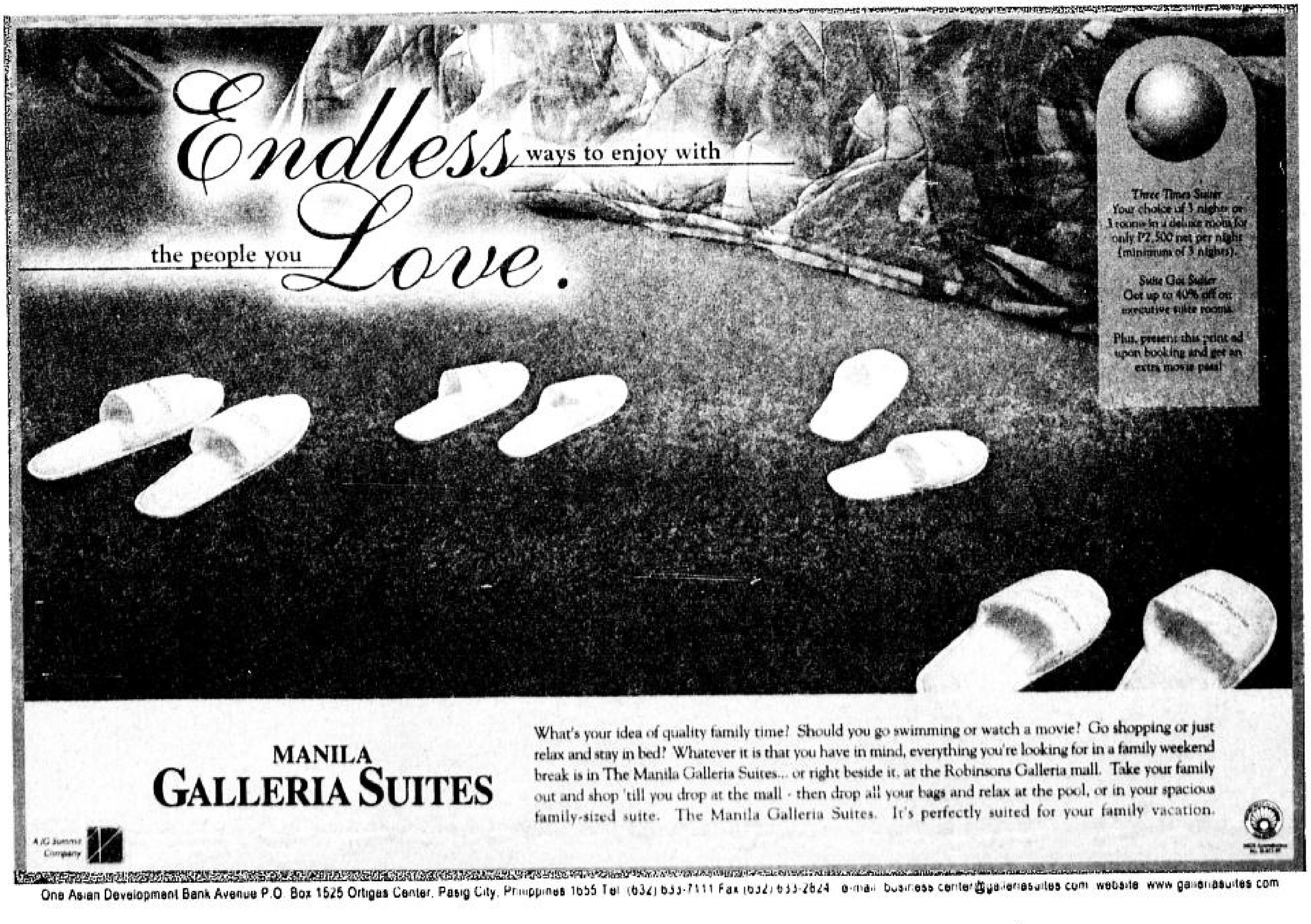
Earl Jeans has kept its southern and royal sensibility through the years, and is continuously focused on classic but cutting edge denim wear and designs in unassuming yet expensive fabrics. It is therefore easy to see the charm of the blues in stylish young women. Even Lana Asanin, E! Philippines' sexy and beautiful host, can't get over the pairs she sampled for this Jun de Leon pictorial. The styles she wore indeed hugged her hips and flattered her sexy legs.

Now, fashionable women, instead of wearing their old 501's, are sporting Earl's #55, which remains Earl's most popular fit. The line now includes about 12 different styles, plus jean jackets and T-shirts for women. Some of the hottest trendsetting stores in the US, including Fred Segal, Barneys New York, Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus, sell Earl Jeans to an ever-growing global fan club.

Earl Jeans is available at the chic lifestyle store Wish, located at the Makati Shangri-La's G/F Shopping Arcade, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.



JEANS, like this pair on E! host Lana Asanin, are a $28-million-a-year phenomenon.



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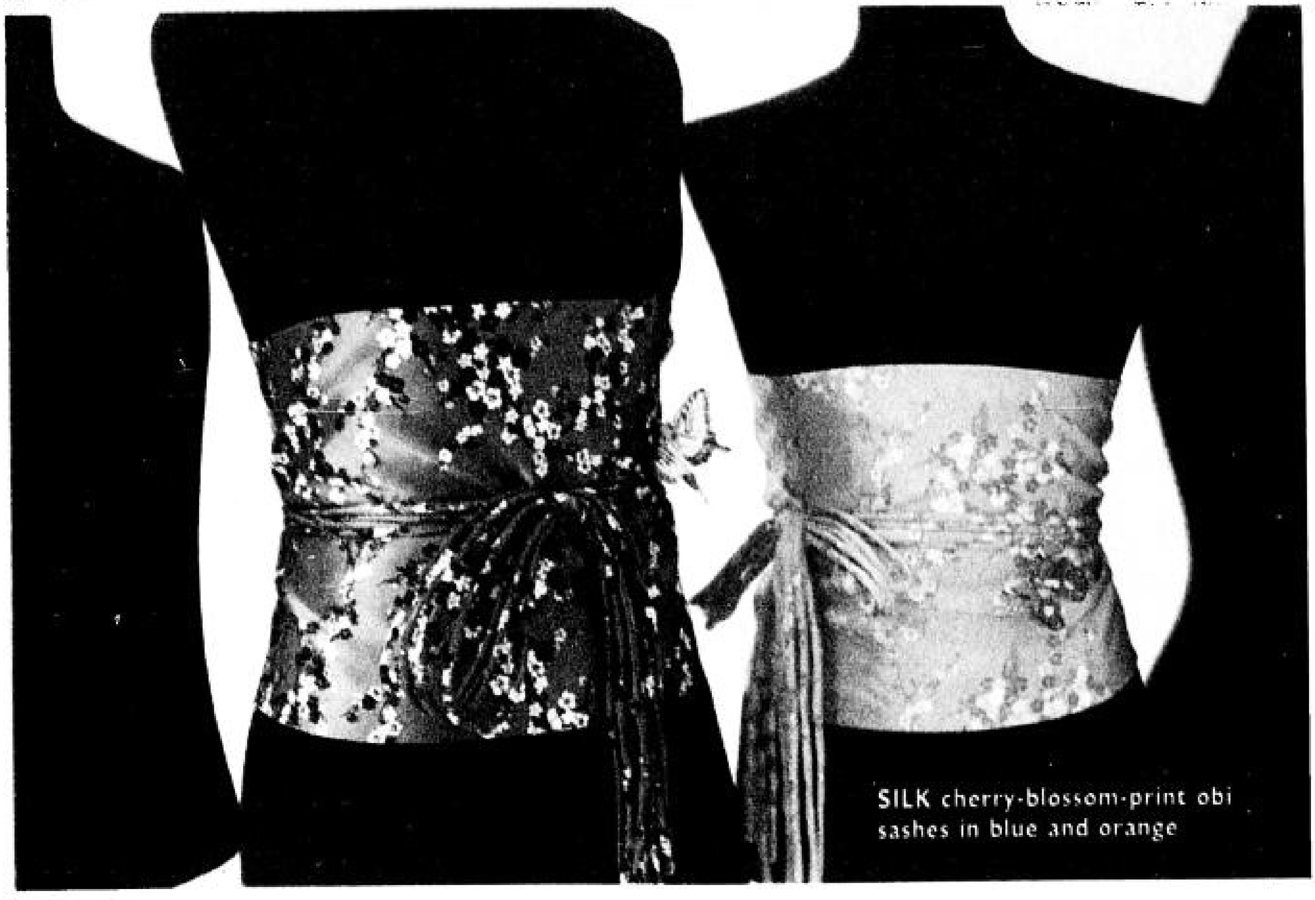
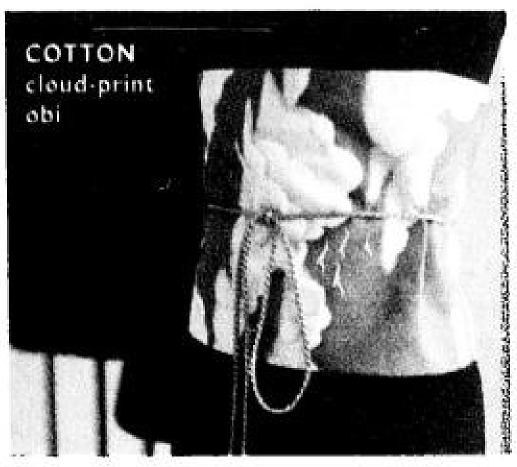


SILK cherry-blossom-print obi sashes in blue and orange

Sash-aying days



COTTON cloud-print obi

Say hello to a fashionable alternative to the belt

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor
Photos by Mike Alquinto

BANISH the hipster, macramé and fringed belts. Welcome the sash.

Tied around the waist and looking much like the obi, the sash is versatile. It can be tied in many ways. Worn over an untucked shirt or as a substitute for the belt, the sash impresses.

Sashes, however, are more becoming on tall and slim figures. A stocky figure may look stockier when encircled by a sash. So wear the sash with a view to enhancing your qualities or minimizing your perceived flaws.

E-mail the author at unit36d@vasia.com

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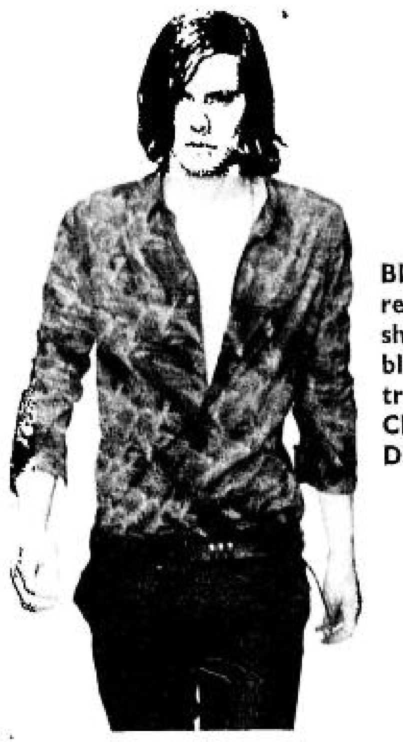
LIFESTYLE

DUNKIN' DONUTS
COFFEE on the GO!
DUNKIN' DONUTS

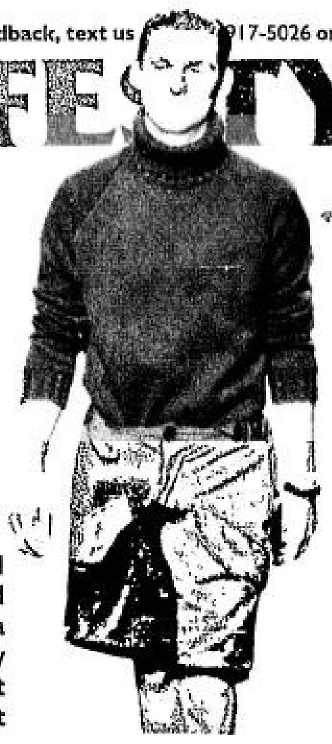
Trend Spotting

Saleable menswear hit Paris runways

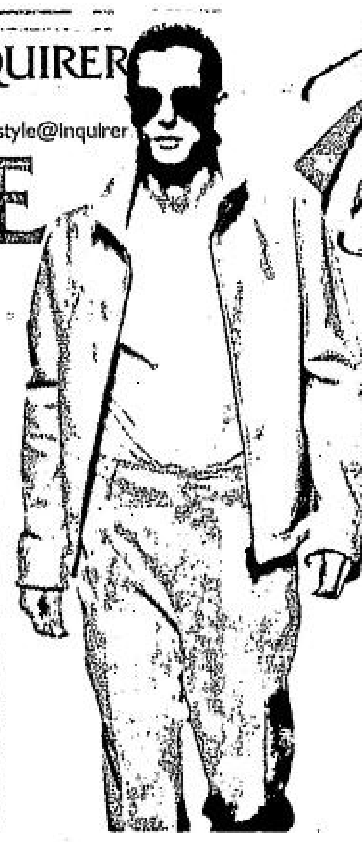


BLACK and red printed shirt with black trousers by Christian Dior

PHOTOS: AP



BROWN sweater and Bermuda shorts by Yves Saint Laurent



YELLOW leather jacket over a white T-shirt with beige trousers by Yves Saint Laurent

PARIS—Jean-Charles de Castelbajac kicked off last weekend's collections of cool menswear for hot weather with a playful boxing match up near Montmartre. His clothes for next summer featured boxer-style models sparring in the ring.

They were wearing fun multicolored sweat or T-shirts, cargo pants, bright satin knee-length shorts and robes. A couple of female models lounged on the ropes in bikinis with stars on the tops and sequined bags attached to the bottoms.

"But naturally, this was for fun," said Castelbajac's assistant, Marie-Chantal de Beaufort. "We'll sell these clothes, but also casual jackets, jeans, suits and coats for street wear."

The weekend was full of clothes for desert or beach chic, plus a few nods to suits. This was a moment to sell; retail is not exactly flourishing in these hard times, so saleable clothes are in order.

Jean-Paul Gaultier did produce a remarkable show with an androgynous moment. Was the model a man? A woman? Both turned up in look-alike outfits. The striking costume of the day was a suit of lights, a jumbled pastiche of a matador's outfit. Under a wildly colorful T-shirt and vest, the tight pants were turned down at the waist over green tights and thong sandals. Underwear was showing, as it did in many Gaultier outfits.

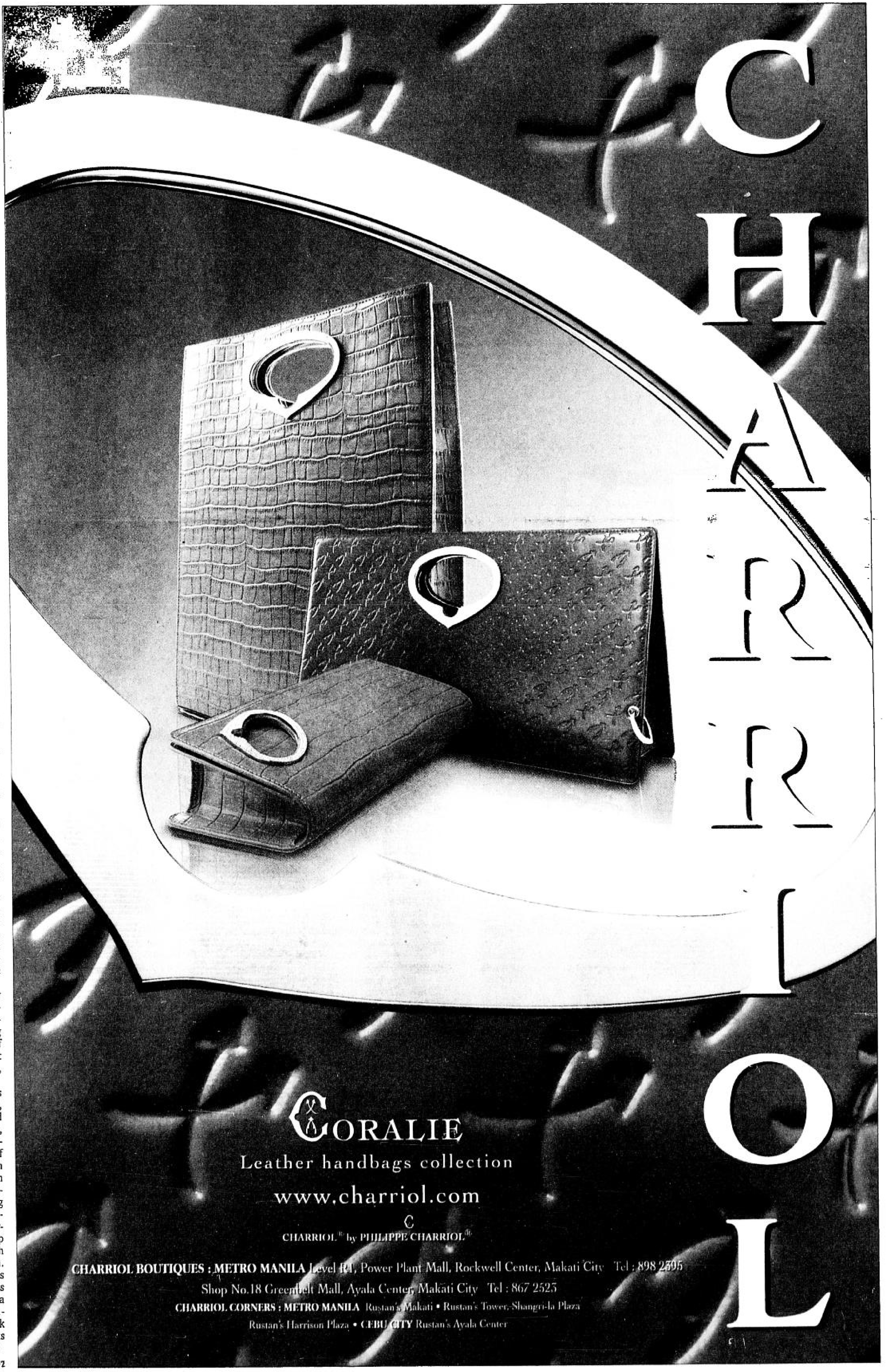
There were also plenty of denims, pedal-pushers and good linen shirts, meaning that these clothes could sell.

Yohji Yamamoto went into his customary clever detail: black trim for large-cut gray suits, with interesting flying lapels and extra tulle lapels on top.

The Christian Dior show by Hedi Slimane was a hit. Fashionables applauding were Pierre Berge of Yves Saint Laurent and Karl Lagerfeld, Chanel's designer.

They saw pants slung low at the hip, leather blousons and bare chests. Scarves, ribbons and chains—silver, on the backs of jackets, looped on belts—were the main accessories. In the iridescent silk evening suits, the lean, anorexic styles were perfect for a young, hip crowd that has punch rather than paunch. Tom Ford at Yves Saint Laurent was also applauded for a collection that included some slick double-breasted suits for office types. The

SALEABLE / p.F2



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Mr. International comes home

HEARTTHROB du jour Alex Aquino, who is also the reigning Mr. International, can wear the most casual of clothes and still look stunning in a crowd of pinstripes.

Whether waiting in the wings for his photo shoot in casual attire or working his charm for the camera in Robinsons Department Store's (RDS) men's collection, he is another DDG (drop-dead gorgeous) talent who combines good looks with hard work.

FOR A CASUAL DATE. Red polo shirt, khaki pants and shades

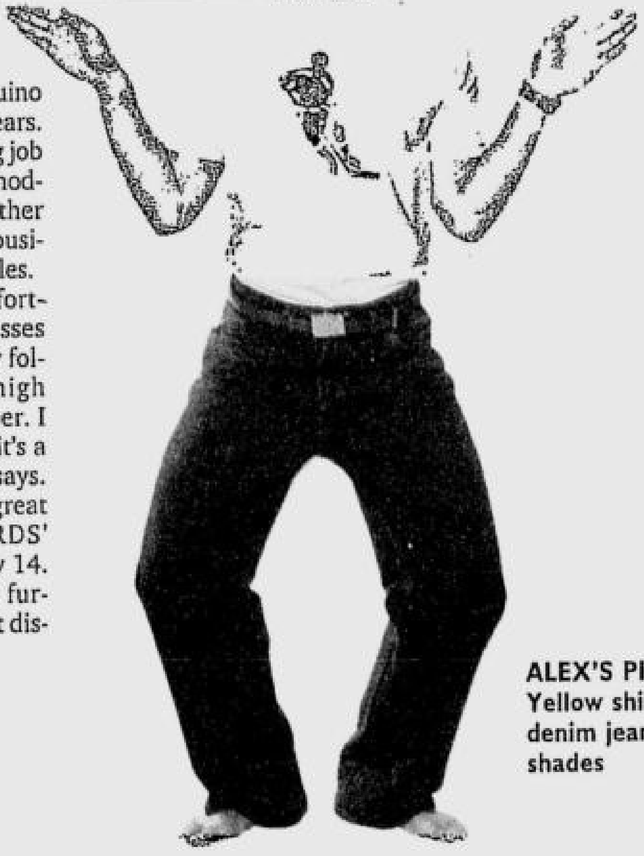
JUST as stunning in a power suit

LONG-SLEEVE shirt, shorts and cool shades

After earning his marketing degree, Aquino worked in the corporate world for seven years. Although he has since traded his marketing job to dabble in what he calls his "hobbies" (modeling and soon, acting), he still has his other foot firmly planted on commerce with a business he set up with his cousin in Los Angeles.

Although he goes for casual and comfortable clothing these days, Aquino confesses that there was a time when he religiously followed fashion trends. "That was in high school. But right now, I'm a frugal shopper. I also wait for discounts and sales, unless it's a really rare item that I need to have," he says.

Those who want to take advantage of great buys like Aquino should check out RDS' "Men's Fair," which is ongoing until July 14. All quality men's wear, accessories and furnishings are available for up to 50-percent discount in all its branches nationwide.



ALEX'S PICKS. Yellow shirt, denim jeans and shades

Saleable menswear hit Paris runways

From page F1

suits were worn without shirts for a cool look. The cut of jackets and rather wide pants had a 1930s Fred Astaire allure, with double vents in the jacket backs.

Black and white—Ford favorites—were predominant throughout the show, but café au lait and mocha shades came up in Bermuda shorts, sometimes buttoned to off-shoulder T-shirts. There were lots of tank tops with spaghetti straps.

Ford also showed fascinating versions of desert jackets. With gathered, stretch waists, the jackets were khaki-green suede, with mottled or tie-dyed appeal.

At Thierry Mugler, the mood was Lawrence of Arabia. Models slogged through a runway covered with 30 tons of sand in the old Stock Exchange building.

Designer Jean-Luc Testu (who took over from Mugler himself last season, though Mugler will keep on with women's fashion) did an about-face. Instead of Mugler's usual colorful and sharply cut styles, here were desert types.

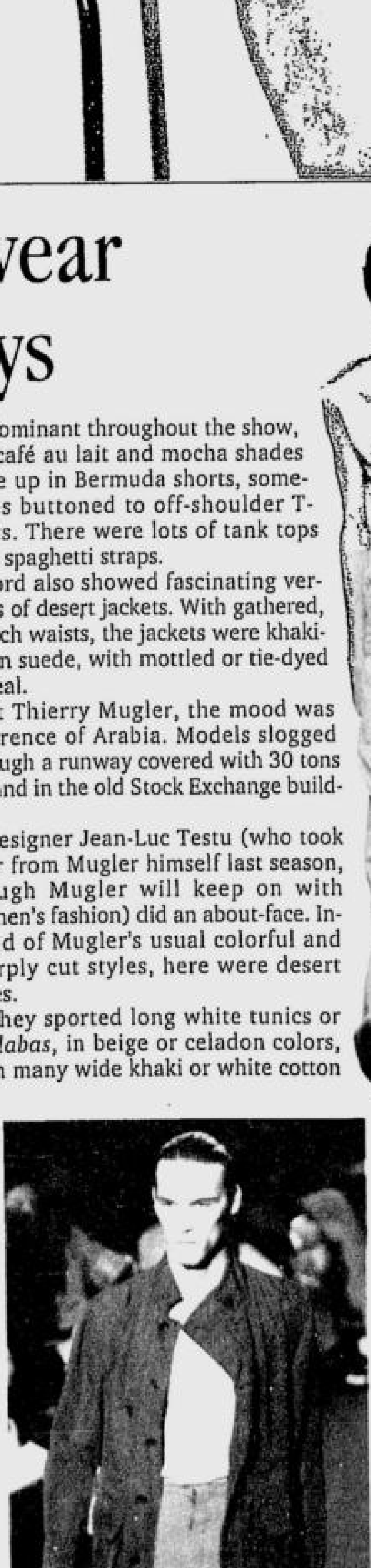
They sported long white tunics or *djellabas*, in beige or celadon colors, with many wide khaki or white cotton trousers. There were also brown sleeveless vests, drawstring beachcomber pants, desert jackets full of pockets and short pilots' jackets. Discreet touches of jewelry—silver or gold designs for the torso or bracelets—added a shiny touch to the desert tableau.

At Lanvin, Christophe Blondin Pechabrier did a fine job with the cool Somerset Maugham tropical look for summer, in wonderful linen suits or just pants with voile overshirts, shades of celadon and gray linen in easy outfits for warm climates.

Dominique Morlotti, who left Lanvin to keep up his own line, was seeing red, in satiny hot red shirt-jackets and plenty of black leather. From the red leather maxi-coat to the white linen shirt and straight cotton pants, the clothes were comfortable and wearable. *AP*

SLEEVELESS khaki suit by Christian Dior

LARGE denim trousers, a beige blouse and scarf by Thierry Mugler



BLUE jacket and trousers by Yves Saint Laurent

LOOK SMART, DRESS SMART

Whether you're a yuppie with an important presentation in the morning and an intimate date in the evening, or a college dude with midterms during the day and nonstop partying at night, Novecento keeps you stylish and comfortable at all times. Its European-inspired clothes are suitable for any situation yet manage to make you stand out in a crowd. Novecento branches are located at: 3/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center; G/F Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center; 3/L Shoppesville Arcade, Greenhills; and lower level, Greenhills Theater Mall.

A good example of a megabrand

WHEN Sara Lee Corp. acquired the Hanes apparel brand in 1979, it posted sales of $450 million. Now, it boasts of $250 billion in annual sales. In 1986, it expanded its line to create women's knitwear products and called it Hanes Her Way. Last year, it enjoyed revenues of over $600 million. Hanes and Hanes Her Way combined reached sales of over $2 billion.

This year, Hanes celebrates a landmark event—a century of providing comfortable and quality undergarments since 1901. In the Philippines, Sara Lee Direct marks the event with premium shirts, balls and umbrellas to their dealers nationwide.

But Hanes wasn't born a megabrand. It had its humble beginnings as a family-owned business in North Carolina. It made a number of innovations in the underwear and hosiery industry like two-piece men's underwear and seamless nylon hosiery for women. But Hanes' success can be attributed to quality intimates and underwear for both women and men that are comfortable. No wonder the whole world likes Hanes.

Long regarded as America's No. 1 undergarment brand, Hanes Classic round-neck and V-neck shirts have become a favorite among men and women from all walks of life for several generations now. It's sheer simplicity and comfortable cotton fabrics make it the logical choice for everyday use. Hanes' highly absorbent cotton, cotton-blend material and reinforced fabrics allow for breathing space and cling like second skin. It's not surprising that Hanes Classics have become an essential in any man's wardrobe.

Hanes Classics are available at Sara Lee Direct Selling (formerly House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. Call the Sara Lee Hotline at 810-5402 or e-mail customer.relations@hosl-ph.com.

Sara Lee Direct Selling is a global-branded consumer packaged-goods company with approximately $20 billion in annual revenues. Its leading brands worldwide include Playtex, Hanes, L'eggs, Kiwi, Douwe Egberts, Din, Hillshire Farm, Jimmy Dean and Bryan.

In the Philippines, Sara Lee Direct Selling's line of prestigious brands include Playtex, Hanes, Colour Collection, Ivana, Georgie on Ice, Zwitsal and Cool Splash

Casual wear leader opens 42nd outlet

GIORDANO will open its 42nd outlet in the country on July 6, 5:30 p.m., at the 4/L of The Podium on ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong.

Designed by Dennis Lao, the 170-sq-m branch serves as the latest venue for all-imported men's and ladies' apparel. The branch also offers Giordano Juniors, a line for the younger set.

A by-invitation-only cocktails and fashion show choreographed by Joey Espino will open the new branch. Operations manager Joyce C. Sia said the show will feature an all-new collection. "Everybody's going to be in for a big surprise," she said. "Let's just say better silhouettes and good fabrication. Giordano is all about dressing down casually. After wearing office attire all week, you just want to go to work in a nice woven shirt and your jeans or chinos. That's what we're all about."

A household name in the East-Asia Pacific and the Middle Eastern region, Giordano took Pinoy shoppers by storm in 1989 when it opened the doors of its first-ever branch in SM City. Since then Filipinos have frequented its boutiques for its durable jeans, classic tees and tops, and most recently, its chino pants, part of its "Simply Khakis" global campaign. "We're also very well-known for our belts," said Sia. "I've had customers come up to me and say, 'I've had my Giordano belt for 10 years. It's true!'"

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Two Italian fashion houses join to create new company

THE ERMENEGILDO Zegna Group and the Ferragamo Group announce their decision to create a 50/50 joint venture for development of the Ermenegildo Zegna brand in the footwear and leather sector worldwide.

The company, which will debut on international markets in the Fall-Winter 2003 season, is called ZeFer. It is half-owned by Ermenegildo Zegna Holditalia SpA and by Ferragamo Finanziaria SpA.

ZeFer will incorporate the know-how, manufacturing network and logistics of Ferragamo. It will have an autonomous management structure, and will market its products through dedicated areas in all Zegna stores, as well as through agreements with major international retail groups.

The Salvatore Ferragamo group, based in Florence, creates and distributes footwear, handbags and leather accessories, scarves and ties, men's and women's ready-to-wear, bijoux, fragrances, and eyewear. It has a network of 400 personalized shops worldwide, 153 of them directly controlled.

In the Philippines, Stores Specialists, Inc. is the exclusive franchise holder for Salvatore Ferragamo. Shops are located at Greenbelt 1 Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center, Rustan's Tower and Rustan's Makati.

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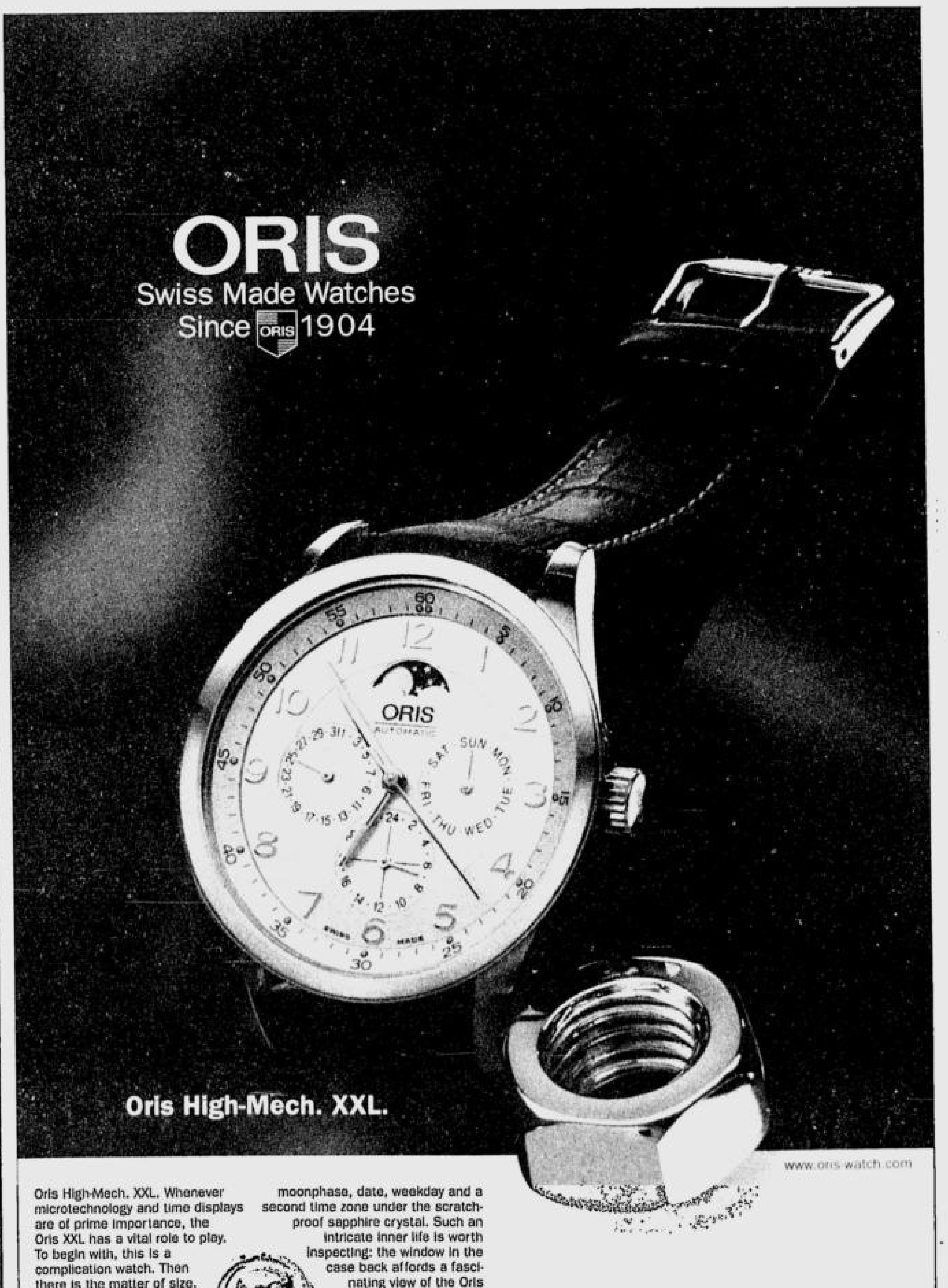
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Oris High-Mech. XXL. Whenever microtechnology and time displays are of prime importance, the Oris XXL has a vital role to play. To begin with, this is a complication watch. Then there is the matter of size. The stainless-steel case of 40 mm diameter offers plenty of room for features such as moonphase, date, weekday and a second time zone under the scratch-proof sapphire crystal. Such an intricate inner life is worth inspecting: the window in the case back affords a fascinating view of the Oris High-Mech movement. Oris XXL Complication – time measurement at its most refined.

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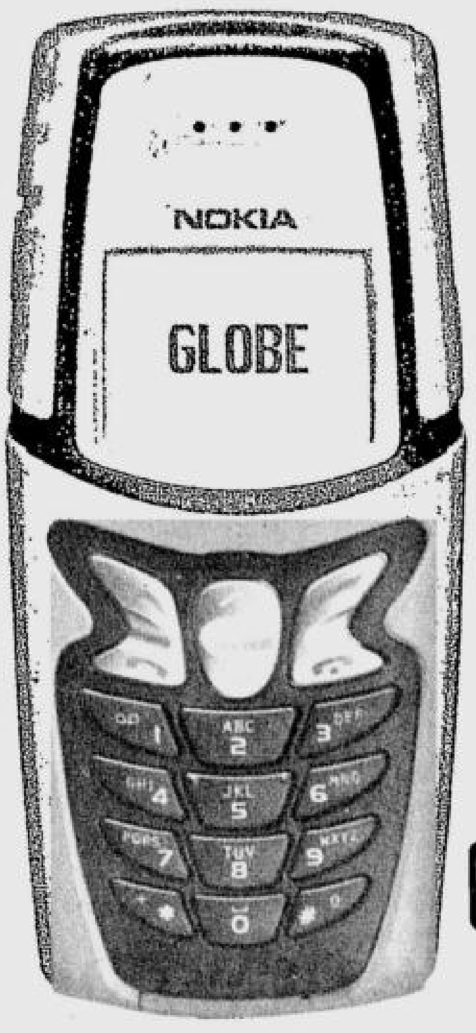

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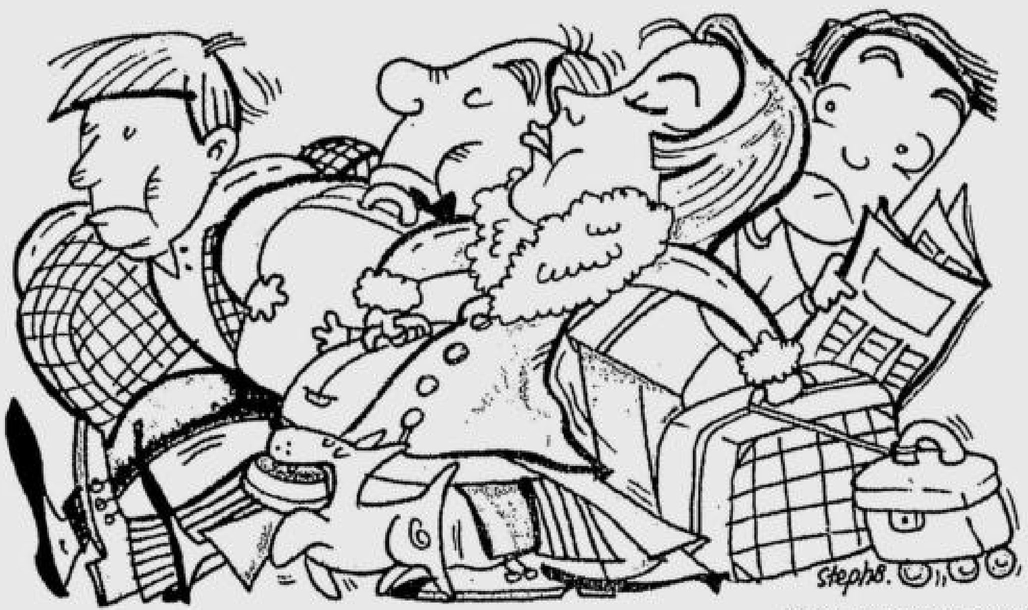

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Why 19 percent of Filipinos want to leave the country

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

SHE was very upset. She was so irked she started quoting passages from the Holy Book leading to the Apocalypse.

She must be angered by a survey saying 19 percent of Filipinos were so unhappy they wanted to pack their bags and leave on a jet plane. To where? It does not matter. Anywhere but here. And, yes, Madame, it has got something to do with half-filled and half-empty glasses.

And, yes, Mr. Camacho, it also has got everything to do with the "*utak lamok*" you used for emphasis, underlining the defeatist attitude of your *kababayan* about wrestling through heaps of used clothing from *ukay-ukay*, or simply settling for the second best.

It also has got something to do with personal income, one's power to purchase, or even a sense of resignation that *hanggang dito na lang at maraming salamat.* I'm sure Dante, our faithful and hardworking utility man, would look as good in an Armani suit as you and I if only he had the money and gall to go to the Glorietta or Ayala Town Center boutiques.

But then, what is 19 percent compared to the 60 percent who still want to stay—or have resigned to the fact that there is nowhere else for them to go? Whatever.

The problem is, it is so easy to point fingers and diss the *kagalang-galang* government officials for every malady, tragedy or perfidy that is starting to comprise 21st-century Filipino life.

And we make such a big ado about events at Edsa, our "miracles" followed by a resurgence of hope, pride—and a lot of sourgrapes ("*Weder, weder lang yan… mga ugok!*").

Only in *da* Pilipins

We can't seem to get out of politics—for we have created so many mutations of the practice of politicking that we seem to have completely subverted the duty to govern. Well, again, whatever. It has become such a convenient expression to sigh, "Only in *da* Pilipins!"

Only in *da* Pilipins can you find politicians staging sitcoms at the Senate. Only in *da* Pilipins can a vice president be treated like some unwanted Constantino by his Reyna Elena (a relationship that can outdo the demented plot of any soap opera). Only in *da* Pilipins can you find politicians so busy trying to grab as much media space as they can so that you start to feel they have crowded out people in showbiz with their antics. Only in *da* Pilipins can a giant carnivorous fish be credited for the complete disappearance of the corpse of one of the most wanted criminals.

And to think all these took place within two weeks! Now I am beginning to question the 19 percent who want to scoot: Can you find another chunk of habitable earth on this planet that can provide such wonderful, mind-boggling entertainment?

Also within two weeks, three people I knew left the country. One had doubts but had no choice. The second was joining his family, migrating somewhere near Washington, DC. The third felt God finally answered his prayers as he had been dreaming of a world where he could eat steak and mashed potatoes not only on special occasions, and at a price he could afford.

Only a few years earlier, a number of us already considered leaving. A friend asked, "If you get there, what are you going to do?"

I pondered, then replied, "Anything. I don't mind doing anything."

"*Naku, ayokong maging* second-class citizen," another friend chirped. "I cannot imagine myself being the object of racial discrimination. *Dito na lang ako.*"

Yes, there are privileges in being a first-class citizen. It only depends on what kind of citizenry you allocate your idea of premium.

Then came that usual argument: Do you prefer to be a big fish on a small pond, or a small fish on a big pond? It was then I realized life-changing decisions could be diminished to the options of aquatic existence.

Potential for growth

Everyone expects the government to render hat tricks, show a complete economic turnaround, eradicate all social ills (including gambling, kidnapping, graft, corruption, power rates and garbage collection). Meanwhile, everybody else sits back and watches, mumbling, "*Aber…Tingnan ko nga,*" without so much as lifting a finger, or even taking Jolina Magdangal a bit more seriously now that she is a Malacañang mascot.

Others have come to the conclusion that it is no longer a problem of government alone. We have to change the people. Now, how are we going to go about doing that, considering how uncontrollably we are multiplying?

The process is vicious. The cycle is tedious. And it is also not surprising that a greater bulk of that 19 percent constitutes the thinking sector of the population—those who want a better life because they know there *is* such a thing as a *good life.*

Maybe a substantial portion of those who want to stay have no other option but to do so, or have forfeited their right to dream of a better life for their kids. And a better life has got nothing to do with *ukay-ukay* clothes. It has everything to do with a sense of hope founded on what is possible, and not delusion based on promises and platforms. More importantly, it is anchored on a sense of pride, of having reasons to remain proud of being a Filipino.

Meantime, there will be so many little Filipino fishes swimming in bigger bodies of water. Although it is true that while they swim through flowing streams, in angry seas and turbulent oceans they will be submerged in insignificance and anonymity, they will see an entire universe that they never imagined was possible out here.

They will be introduced to opportunities that they never fathomed would be accessible if they had stayed in their little murky aquarium. More importantly, they will have the space to grow—so that they are no longer constricted to remain perpetual fries when they have the potential to become barracudas.

Tribute to Doreen Fernandez slated today at CCP

FRIENDS and colleagues will pay tribute to the late essayist, author, literary and food critic, and former trustee of the Cultural Center of the Philippines Dr. Doreen G. Fernandez today, 2 p.m., at the CCP Main Theater Lobby. Fernandez passed away last June 24 at age 67.

A Mass will be held, followed by a tribute by local artists.

Fernandez graduated from the St. Scholastica's College in 1954 with a degree in English and history. She finished her master's and doctorate degrees in literature at the Ateneo de Manila University in 1956 and 1977, respectively. She served as chairperson of the university's English, Interdisciplinary Studies and Communication departments and at the same time taught writing, journalism, drama and literature.

Fernandez was co-founder of the Babaylan Theater Group in 1973 and founding chair of the Cultural Research Association of the Philippines in 1975. She wrote for the Philippine Journal of Education and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and was a member of the editorial boards of Philippine Studies, Filipinas Journal of Philippine Studies and the Asian Theater Journal.

Her major works concentrated on cultural history, with emphasis on drama and theater history, literary history and culinary history. Her books included "In Performance" (1981); and with Edilberto Alegre, "The Writer and His Milieu" (1984), and its sequel, "Writers and Their Milieu" (1987); "Sarap: Essays on Philippine Food" (1988); "Kinilaw: A Philippine Cuisine of Freshness" (1991); and the "Lasa" series of restaurant guides. She also wrote video scripts on culture like "Tikim" (Taste) for the Philippine Information Agency.

For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE Home

MAIN gate to St. Gabriel Heights in Antipolo

High on a hill

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Romy Homillada

ONCE upon a summer, the Lopa children and grandchildren would frolic on their grandfather's fruit farm, a 21-ha property in a quiet area of Antipolo known for its rolling terrain, rich clay soil and cool breeze.

In the 1990s, the Lopa family decided to sell the property to Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI), the mass housing arm of Ayala Land Inc., which developed it into what is now known as St. Gabriel Heights. Today, only the old Lopa vacation home remains on the portion of the property that has been allocated to another LPHI village—St. Alexandra Estates, located right across St. Gabriel Heights.

167 new houses are expected to be built in St. Gabriel within the next two years. The lots have been going so fast that LPHI has sold 60 lots in two months since it was first offered for sale in late March.

St. Gabriel Heights is located along the Teresa provincial road in a zoned residential area of Brgy. Dalig, Antipolo City, roughly 2 km away from the city proper. There are two access routes to St. Gabriel Heights: through the Sumulong Highway and Ortigas Avenue. On a good day sans traffic, it is about a half-hour's drive from Ortigas going to Antipolo.

Envisioned to be a gated residential community for middle income families, lot cuts range from 149 to 276 sq m. Buyers can pick from three types of houses to be constructed on the lots. The house types come in varying unit sizes—40 sq m (Tex 40), 49 sq m (Tex 49) and 81 sq m (Tex 81).

At first sight, it didn't appear that much could be done with such a small house. Upon closer inspection of the model houses designed by interior designer Sophia Ojeda, it all boils down to space utilization and creativity. Definitely, as Ojeda demonstrated through her work, much could be done with a 40-sq m area.

Beng Abella, LPHI project director for St. Gabriel Heights, says majority of the people who have bought lots at St. Gabriel expect

HIGH/ p.G2

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DOLE Cavendish Banana
P24.00/pk.
Reg. Price 28.00

McCORMICK Longanisa Seasoning Mix 75g/2's
P31.00/pk.

McCORMICK

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Ingredients:

Hamburger:

1/2 kilo	ground beef
1 pc.	egg, beaten
1/4 cup	evaporated milk
1 pack	McCormick Longanisa Hamonado Mix
1/2 tsp.	McCormick Iodized Salt
1/2 tsp.	McCormick Black Pepper Ground
1/2 cup	finely chopped chorizo
6 pcs.	hamburger buns
6 pcs.	cheese slices
	tomato slices
	cucumber slices
	lettuce leaves
	onion rings

Honey-Mustard Dressing:

3 tbsp.	honey
1 1/2 tbsp.	McCormick Prepared Mustard
1/4 cup	mayonnaise
	pinch of salt

Procedure:

Combine all ingredients for honey-mustard dressing. Set aside. Combine all ingredients for the hamburger. Mix well until it holds together. Form mixture into patties. Fry or grill until done. Slice buns and spread some of the honey-mustard dressing on the bun. Place a burger patty on each bun then top with cheese, sliced tomatoes, onions and lettuce.

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SUNNY. Buttermilk-yellow walls of Tex 81 living area

CHEERFUL. Floral print-covered dining room chairs and orange lamps in the Tex 81 living room

High on a hill

From page G1

their homes to be built within the next two years. She says they are young couples in the 30-39-year-old bracket with an average of two children. Most of them work in Makati, Quezon City or Antipolo, and their children attend school in the Antipolo area.

The model units at St. Gabriel have, in fact, been designed to cater to this particular market. The Tex 40 unit is a single-level house of approximately 40 sq m and consists of a living room, dining and kitchen area, one bathroom and two bedrooms.

Tex 81 is a two-bedroom, two-level unit that Ojeda designed to exude a bold, cheerful look by using vibrant shades of yellow, orange and green.

Aside from the house itself, Abella says St. Gabriel's strongest points are the security and amenities that Ayala/LPHI projects consistently provide. Abella cites a recent survey among LPHI projects where security received a high rating, as opposed to several neighboring villages where residents had always cited the issue of security as a main problem.

St. Gabriel has only one entrance and exit per village, and though there are no actual houses or residents yet, there are six to eight guards who man the property and are assigned to key areas.

A multi-purpose hall where residents can have large parties and weekly spiritual gatherings will be constructed. A basketball court, playground and park are part of the recreation facilities which will be included in the project.

Assumption and La Salle Antipolo are approximately 3 km away from St. Gabriel Heights. In case of emergencies, travel time to Unciano Medical Hospital is a mere 10-minute ride.

Abella says a homeowner's association will be set up once a substantial number of homeowners are living in the area. "LPHI takes great pains to help establish the association by giving it seed money to become operational. In the meantime that the homeowner's association is not yet in place, LPHI's village management division takes charge of managing the multiple services required by the homeowners, including security, garbage, the maintenance of parks and the playground," she says.

In spite of the high altitude, expect no water problems here as continuous water supply will be provided via a series of interconnected overhead water tanks with their individual deepwell systems. Abella says these are being constructed already, ahead of the actual construction of the housing units.

Price is a big consideration in buying a piece of property. Priced between P1.55M for a 40-sq m home, and P2M for an 81-sq m home, there are several in-house, banking and Pag-Ibig financing schemes that LPHI offers.

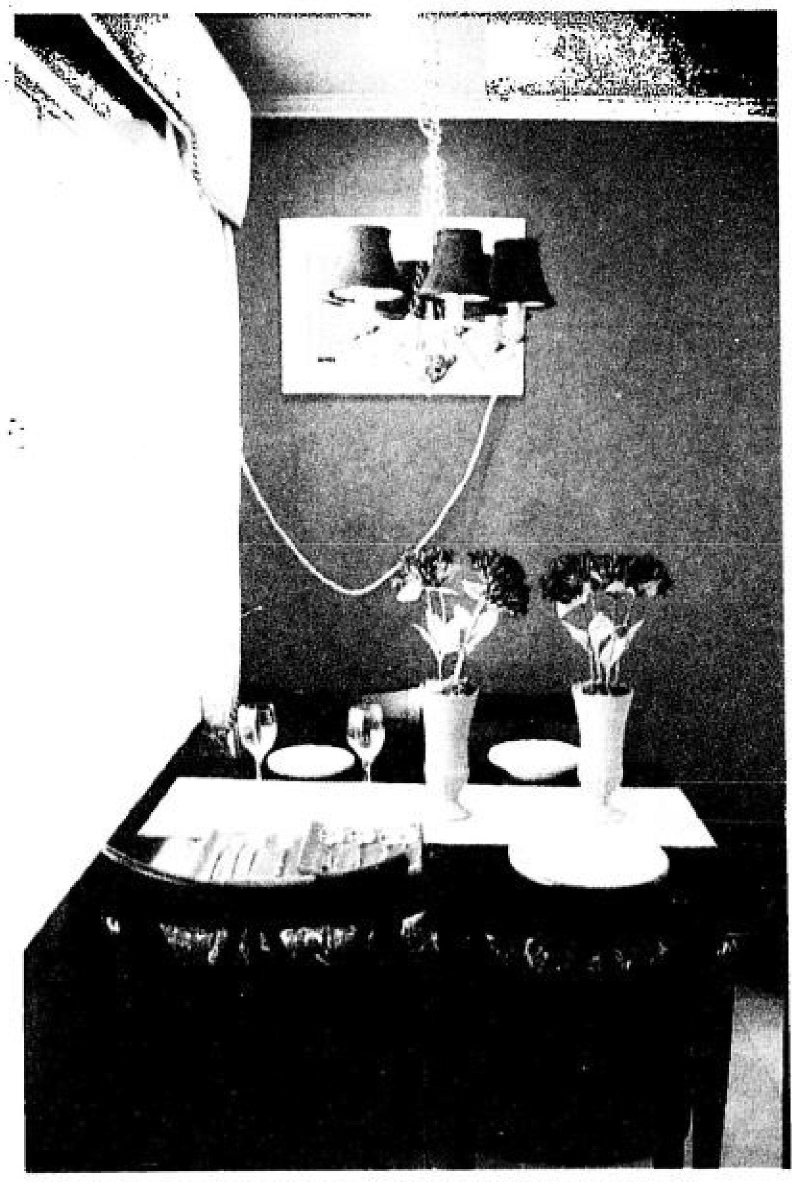
Abella says that, assuming the house costs 1.55 million, one option available is to pay for this via an in-house financing plan where the buyer can pay as little as 10-percent down payment and stretch this over a 12-month period. This down payment is equal to only P13,000 a month for 12 months. The balance can then be paid for as long as 10 months, or only P25,000 a month.

Another option is via Pag-Ibig financing, which allows principal payment for as long as 25 years. Under this scheme, the buyer will initially have to pay a 10-percent one-time down payment, then he can pay for another 20 percent over a 12-month period. This allows him to bring down future monthly amortizations for the 70 percent principal balance for the next 25 years.

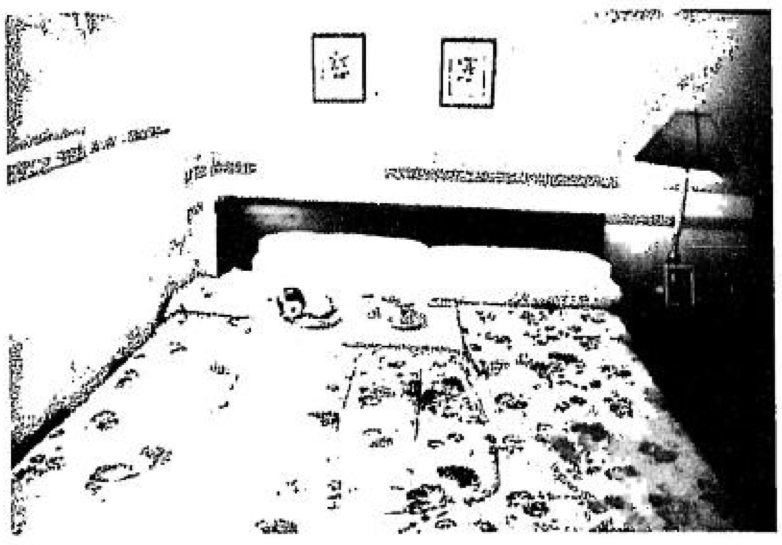
So, depending on your budget, as the St. Gabriel Homes ad promises, "there are 60 ways to own a beautiful house in Antipolo" that offers more than the basics. A cool morning breeze and a sunset can be arranged, free of charge.

Contact LPHI at 814-7521 to -28.

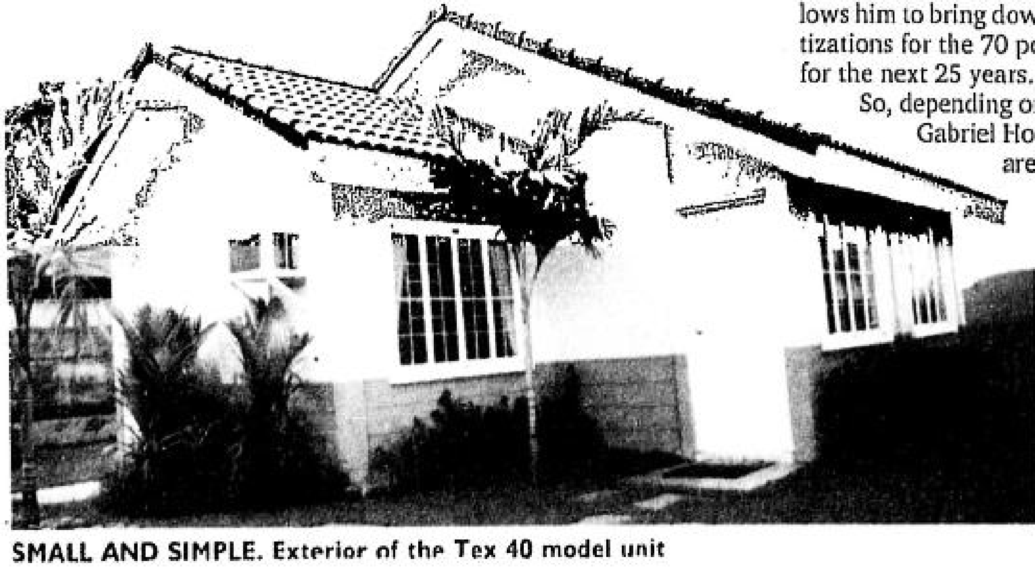
Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



DINING room uses classic patterns and traditional colors.



RESTFUL. Floral bedspread in mulberry red and beige over the twin bed in the Tex 40 master bedroom



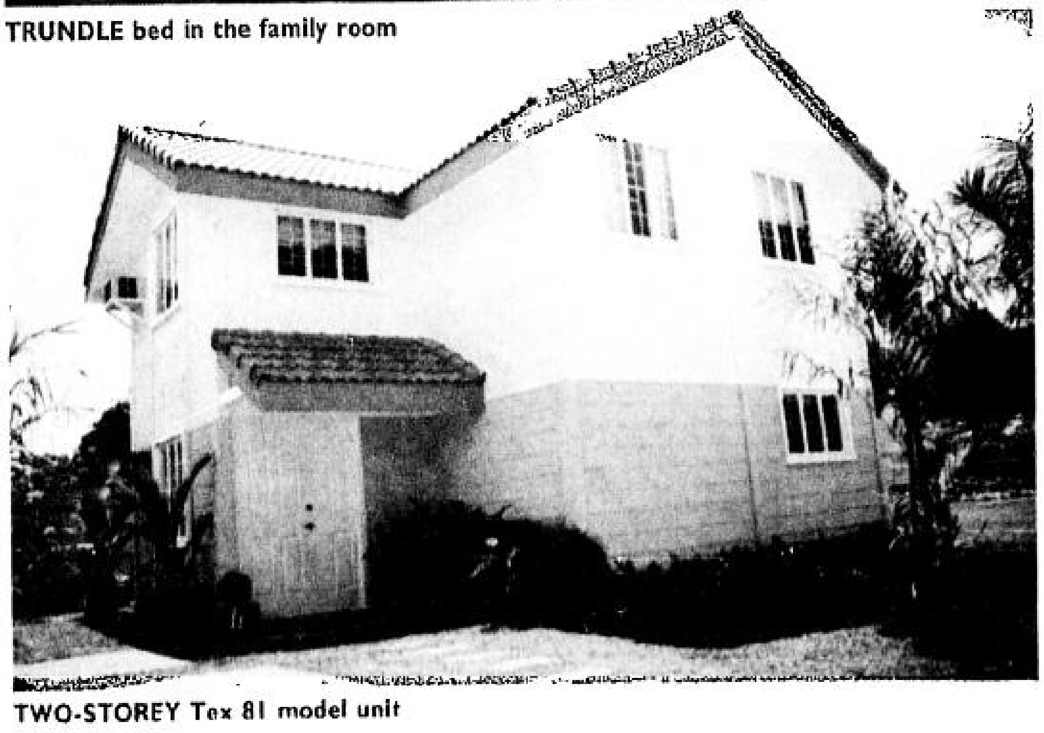
SMALL AND SIMPLE. Exterior of the Tex 40 model unit

NATURE'S colors in ground floor bathroom of Tex 81 unit

COUNTRY KITCHEN. Olive-colored tabletops and wood laminates

TRUNDLE bed in the family room

Who says middle-income families cannot live in a gated community with security and amenities?



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Flying pests meet their match

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

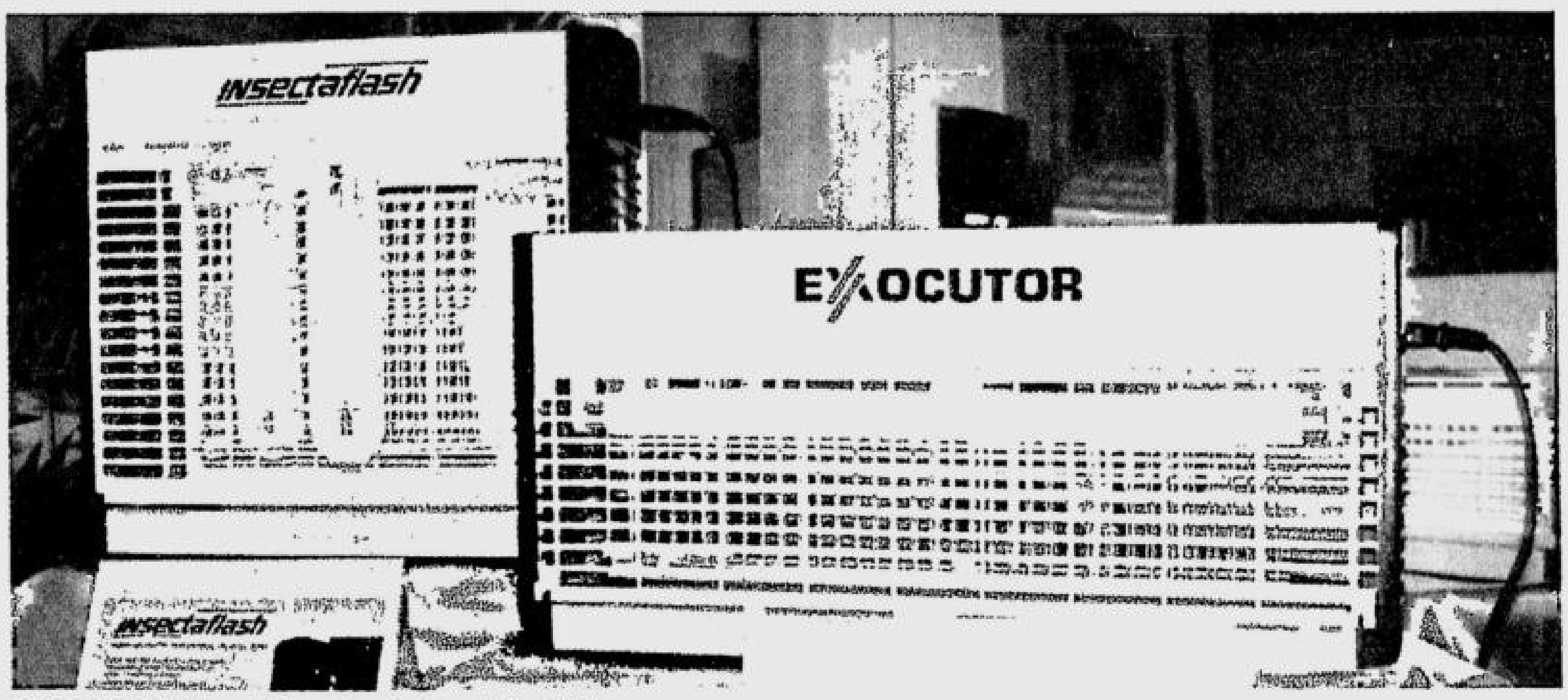
DITCH the smelly insect spray, throw away the suffocating mosquito coil and give the low-tech fly swatter a rest. In response to people's growing health and environmental concerns, Precept Commercial Corp. (tel. 807-3858) has recently introduced a new line of electronic insect killers that promises to be safer, sleeker and more effective than similar products out in the market.

Made by UK-based P&L System, the Exocutor and Insectaflash are products of British technology. Both models use a so-called electronic killing grid to eliminate nature's flying pests such as flies and mosquitoes. Unlike earlier and more conventional versions offered by other brands, the two products are equipped with improved UV tubes that are said to be 60 percent more effective.

"Our UV tubes emit almost exactly the same wavelengths as that of the sun," says Chris Lee, CEO of P&L System. "They've been proven to attract more mosquitoes and other flying insects."

Believe it or not, these are environmentally correct and more effective ways of getting rid of insect pests

Lee vouches for the industrial system's safety since it's virtually free from smoke and other strong fumes. What about the harmful rays that usually come from ultraviolet light? The system's wavelengths, he assures, are milder than those emitted by a sunbathing tube. A number of models are equipped with safety grids. If a child, for instance, points his finger and accidentally touches the grid, the product will automatically shut down by itself.

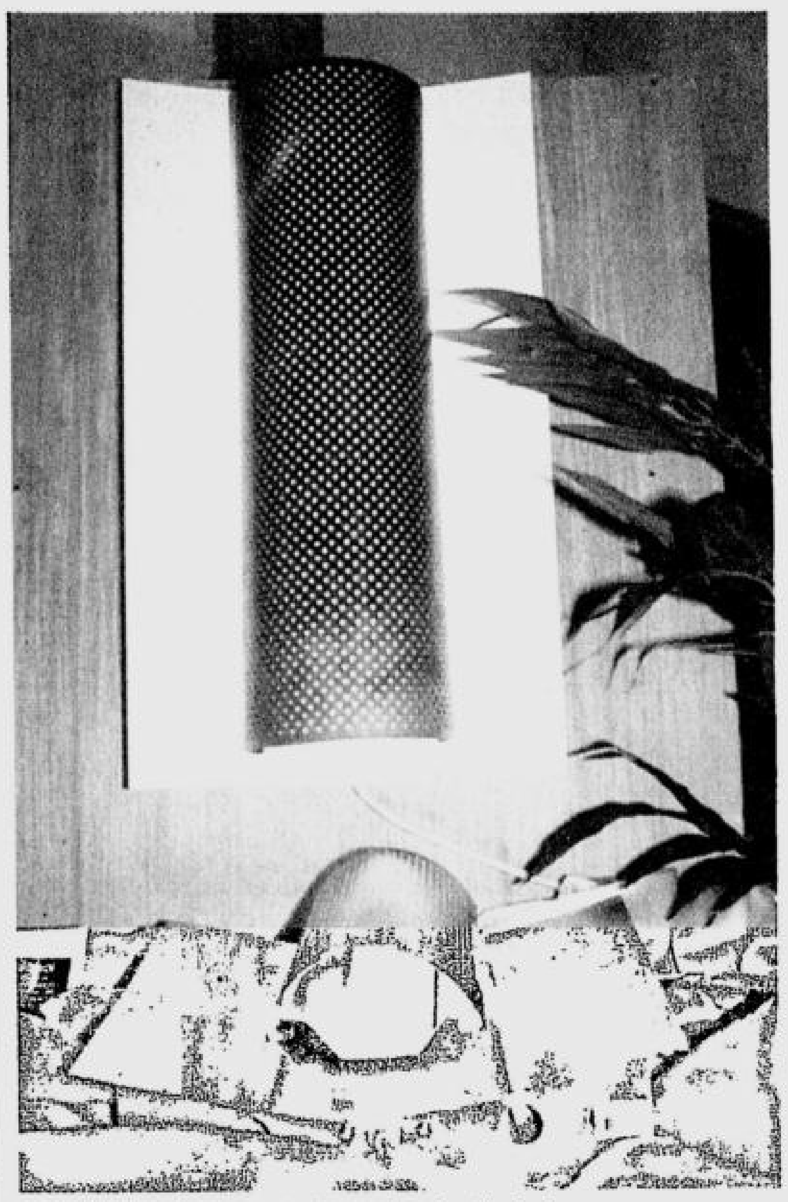


INSECTAFLASH and Exocutor electronic fly killers

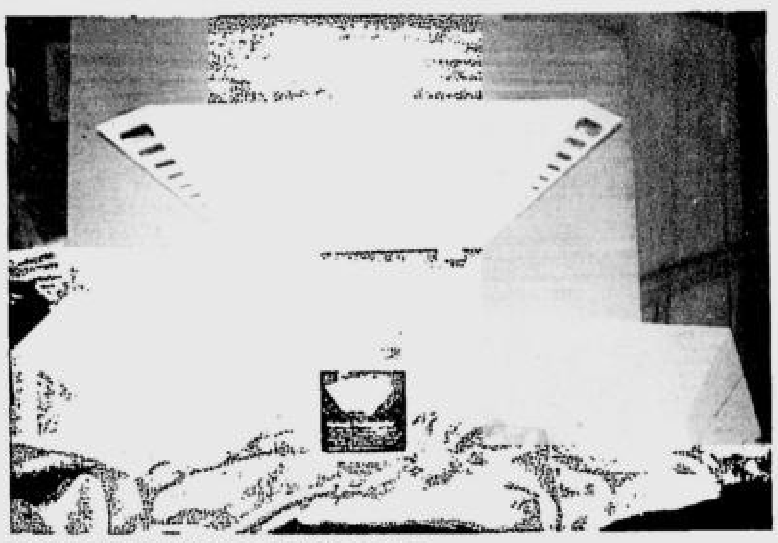
"We would like to be known as a pioneer in introducing alternative ways of pest control," says Michael Garcia, president of Precept.

Aside from distributing chemical fumigants and fogging agents, Precept also offers pest management services. The company's latest move to distribute more environment-friendly devices is its way of responding to the public and providing it with more options.

"There's a growing trend among Asian countries to use more passive forms of pesticides," Garcia adds. "More and more people are moving away from pesticides and starting to use insect light traps."



SATALITE Professional with reflective backplate



LURALITE Professional wall sconce

Because of their size, the Exocutor and Insectaflash are more ideal for hotels, open-air restaurants and resorts. Precept also offers more streamlined versions that are ideal for homes and offices.

The Luralite Professional, for instance, is designed like an off-white wall sconce that readily blends with the furniture and interior. It's also equipped with a backplate to maximize the UV light's effectiveness and prevent it from discoloring the wall. The black Satalite Professional with its reflective backplate looks more like a structural piece on walls, ledges and tables.

The Flytrap Professional is a high-tech version of the reliable but messy flypaper. Its pair of UV lights attracts flies to their sticky deaths. Each unit can be mounted in seven different positions and is equipped with disposable glue pads.

Despite the hard times, Garcia is optimistic that the company's new product line would do well. "Figures from other countries have shown that the public's demand for insecticides and other pest-control products continues to grow even if their economies aren't doing very well," he says. Anything to keep those flying pests at bay.

CHRIS Lee, CEO of P&L System

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